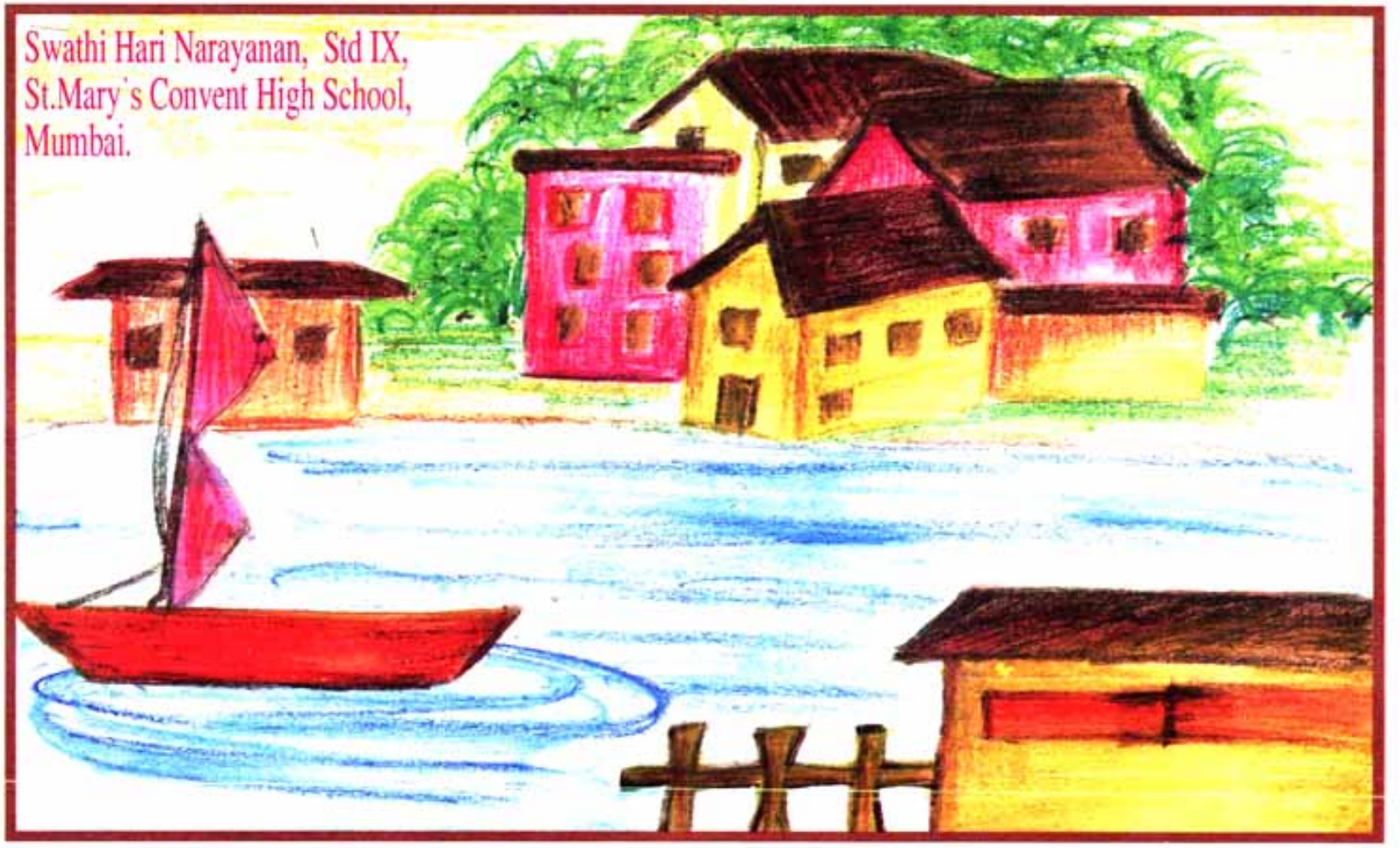
March 2007 Rs.10/- 80 Pages

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children


Swathi Hari Narayanan, Std IX,
St.Mary's Convent High School,
Mumbai.

CONTENTS

Stories

Sandra's New Doll - 06

The Mystery of the Missing Dog! - 34

The Lost Pound - 70

Picture Stories:

The Giant's Language! - 14

'Driven' to Prison! - 30

Dennis the Menace - 57

Tinku - 80

Science:

Nature Trail - 39

Turning Point - 42

Starfish - 50

Saviour of the Sperm Whale - 53

Computer Saga - 74

Monthly Contest:

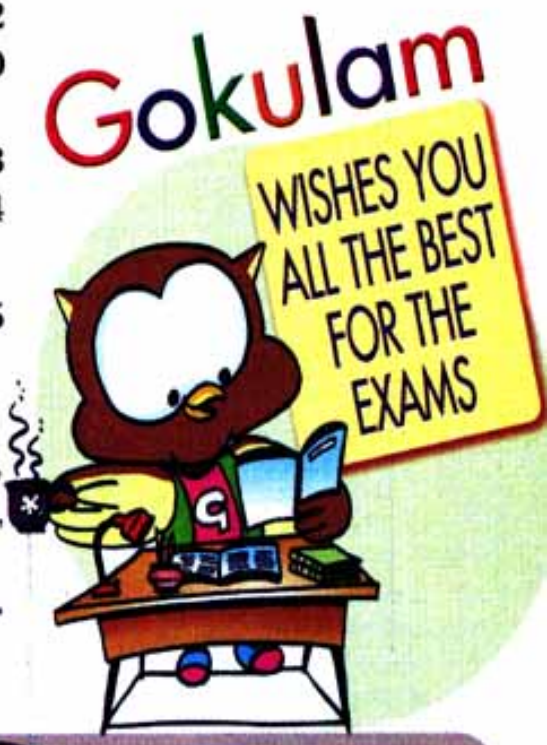
Gogo's Grid - 8 - 65

Favourites:

Grandmaworm, Viewpoint, Hello Doctor, Jokes, Art Gallery, Creative Corner, Let's Cook Up, News Digest, Pot Pourri

The drawing featured on top of each page in this issue is by

Sanjana Ramesh,
Std I,
Rosily Mat.Hr.Sec.School,
Chennai - 64



KALKI GROUP
HOUSE of QUALITY

MARCH 2007
Vol.XIX, No.9

Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children

KALKI GROUP
NOISE of QUALITY
GOKULAM

printed and published at
Bharathan Press
on behalf of
Bharathan Publications
Private Limited
Kalki buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal,
Chennai - 600 032

printer and publisher :
Lakshmi Natarajan

editor:
Seetha Ravi

layouts :
S. Stephen
P.R.Rajan
M.Mohan
S. Karthikeyan

telephones :
2225 1522,
2225 0623,
2225 1324

fax :
044 - 2225 1021

e-mails :

editorial :
gokulam@kalkiweekly.com

subscriptions :
subscription@kalkiweekly.com

other information :
info@kalkiweekly.com

subscription rates :

inland : annual
Rs.120/-

overseas : annual
26 US Dollars

THE Magazine for Children

Dear Reader,

J.K. Rowling has become a legend in her lifetime. The sales of successive editions of her books runs to 325 million copies!

The final, seventh, Harry Potter book entitled the "Deathly Hallows" has been scheduled for release on July 21. Rowling celebrated the completion of the book recently by signing a marble bust.

But her fans do not know whether to celebrate or not. There will be no further Harry Potter

A MESSAGE FROM J.K.ROWLING

books and this makes them sad. At the same time they are happily and eagerly looking forward to the concluding part of the series.

What is amazing is that Rowling in this modern computer age, wrote in longhand every single word of her voluminous books. At times her work was delayed due to non-availability of ruled sheets of paper in stationery stores!

She has also banned E - books and no one can download any of her novels. You will have to read the printed book which is also available in braille.

All this has a message for you, besides whatever message the Harry Potter books themselves provide. Think about Rowling's style of functioning and draw your own conclusions.

- Editor

ARJUN KANNAN

It is Party Time!

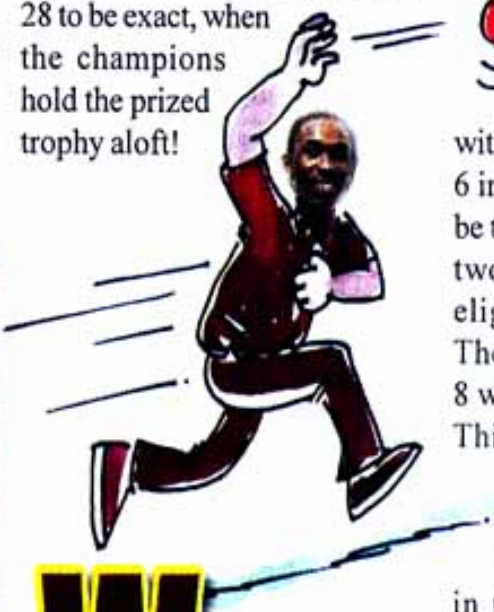
In this issue let us look at the etymology of some delectable foodstuffs. A birthday party is never complete without the cake. So what is the origin of 'cake'? It is of Scandinavian origin and is related to Swedish 'kaka' and Danish 'kage'. Then, there is the ever present sandwich whose primary component is bread. 'Bread' is of Germanic origin and is related to Dutch 'brood' and German 'Brot'. Butter, comes from Greek 'bouturon', while cheese comes from Latin 'caseus'. What about the origin of the 'biscuit' that we munch on all the time? Well, it is based on Latin 'bis' meaning 'twice' and 'coctus' meaning 'to cook'. It is so named because originally biscuits were cooked in a twofold process: they were first baked and then dried in a slow oven to preserve them.

'Pizza' comes from the same word in Italian which means 'pie'. The word 'pie' itself has an interesting etymology: it was used in Middle English in the naming of birds. So what is the connection? The magpie is a bird which picks up bright, shiny objects to stow away! The various ingredients used in a pie are being compared to objects randomly collected by a magpie!

All party foods usually end with a dessert. Ice cream or 'iced cream', comes from German 'Eis' and Latin 'cramum'. Chocolate, comes from 'chocolatl' — of Central American origin — meaning 'made from cocoa seeds'. Pudding, comes from Old French 'boudin' or black pudding, which comes from Latin 'botellus' or sausage. Finally, the custard, which denotes an open pie containing meat or fruit in a spiced or sweetened sauce, thickened with eggs. This comes from Latin 'crusta' meaning shell or crust.

ADITI IYER

The World Cup 2007 fever is hotting up and will reach its peak with the opening ceremony on March 11 at Trelawny Stadium in Jamaica. The cricket fever will rage for the next month and a half, April 28 to be exact, when the champions hold the prized trophy aloft!



World Cup 2007

This World Cup series has some mind-boggling figures. 51 matches, 16 teams and 240 players!! It is a mammoth task that the West Indies has taken on.

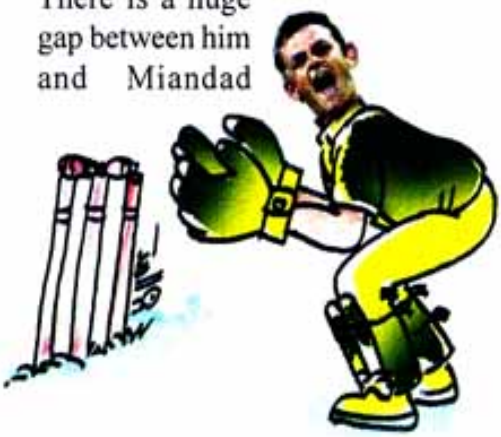
This is first time that 16 teams will be participating in the tournament. They include the test playing nations — Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Zimbabwe and Kenya — and Bermuda, Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, Scotland, who qualified through the 2005 ICC Trophy. The teams will be divided into four groups with four teams each. Like the Super 6 in the 2003 World Cup, there will be the Super 8 in this series. The top two teams of each group will be eligible to play in the Super 8. The top four teams in the Super 8 will advance to the semi-finals. This is the knockout stage, with the No.1 team playing the No. 4 team, and the No.2 team playing the No.3 team in the tournament. The winners of each game proceed into the final.

Before the main tournament, all teams that are taking part will play in a series of warm-up matches. This will enable the teams to prepare and experiment with different tactics and

to help them get acclimatised to the playing conditions in the West Indies before the main tournament gets underway.

The Australian team was the hot favourite rated to win this year's tournament until they recently lost their ODI ranking to South Africa. Of late the New Zealand cricket team is enjoying a good run in the one-day matches. It emerged victorious in the series against both Sri Lanka and West Indies in early 2006 and the Australians this year. The New Zealand key players are enjoying the best of forms. India and Pakistan too have a fair chance. Now there seems to be a more or less level playing field.

Sachin Tendulkar is the top scorer in the world cup series having scored 1732 runs in 33 matches. There is a huge gap between him and Miandad



who stands in the second position with 1083 runs off the same number of matches. I'm sure Sachin will cross the 2000 mark in this series. We wish him all the best.

Fortunately by the time the cricket fever reaches it's peak — the semis and the final — the exam fever would have died down! So let's get set for some nail biting finish and splendid cricket action.

Story

Sandra's New Doll

Sandra woke up feeling happy and excited. It was her birthday. Pushing her blanket aside she sat up. What was that, at the foot of her bed? It was a gift wrapped present. How exciting! She carefully opened the gift. Inside a box was the most heavenly doll. She took it out carefully. The doll had on a lovely white dress with a white bow tied on its hair and the most adorable pair of little white shoes. She decided to name the doll Lilly.

After breakfast Sandra went to Anil's house to show him her new doll. They both played for some time together. Sandra was better than Anil at hopscotch and Anil was much better at bouncing the ball. As Sandra was ready to leave for home Anil said, "If your doll had a pink ribbon you could have called it Pinky."

"What a good idea," Sandra thought to herself. She went home and cut the pink sash from one of her older dolls and tied it around Lilly's waist. "Now I am going to call her Pinky."

Sandra's cousin Betty came to play with her in the afternoon. Betty thought Pinky was a beautiful doll, but Sandra would not allow her to hold the doll. While they were playing, Betty said, "If you put two red spots on its cheeks they will look like dimples. Pinky will look very pretty and you can call her Dimple." Sandra thought that this was a great idea. They brought out the paint and brushes. Sandra painted two neat red spots on the doll's cheeks.

Pinky really looked as if she had dimples!

They went out into the garden to play. Betty was longing to play with Dimple but Sandra would not let her hold the doll. Betty put out her hand and tried to grab the doll from Sandra's hand but it fell down and got dirty. Sandra picked it up. The white dress was caked with mud. Sandra ran home crying. Her mother asked her what the matter was. She told her mother how she had changed Lilly's name to Pinky and then from Pinky to Dimple. Betty said, "Aunty, I only wanted to hold the doll for a minute and she would not give it to me. It slipped and fell on the ground. It was a mistake."

"It doesn't matter dear. We can easily clean it up," mother said. Bringing a wet sponge from

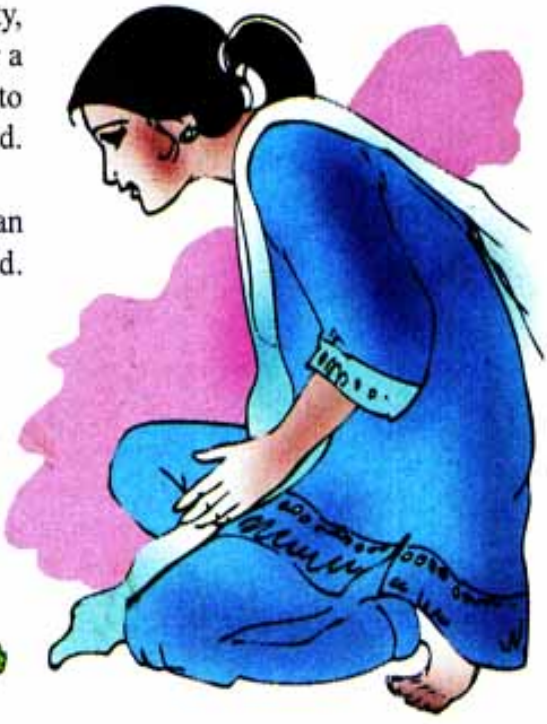
the kitchen, she carefully wiped the dirt off the doll's dress.

"There you are, Sandra. The doll is as good as new. Now let Betty hold her for some time. Have you forgotten that 'Sharing is Caring'?"

"What shall I name my doll Mummy," Sandra asked.

"You named her Lilly didn't you. You should have stuck to that name. You were trying to please everybody and changed the name again and again. You cannot please everyone all the time."

"My doll's name is Lilly and I will never change it. Mummy, please clean the paint on her cheeks too!



She looks lovely as she is. Come Betty let's play together." Sandra enjoyed her birthday.

— Ashmitha Rebello, Std VII, St. Mary's English School, Udipi

VAISHNA ROY

So, summer holidays are around the corner and you're wondering what to do. If you are the type whose idea of fun is a quiet book or hours spent in front of the TV, then don't read on. But if you want to hang from a parachute in a clear blue sky or maybe climb a 40-foot rock wall, then welcome. Fasten your seatbelt and get ready for a thrilling ride through the wacky world of adventure sports.

What does the term 'adventure sports' mean? Well, just that actually. These are activities where you get out of your 'normal' zone and do things you wouldn't dream of doing otherwise — each activity is a complete adventure.

Obviously, not everybody thinks adventure sports is great fun. Can't blame them really. There you are leading a perfectly peaceful life, and I come along to ask if you will jump off a 200 ft wall with no more protection than a chunky rubber band around your legs... of course you'd think I am nuts! I'd think so too But that's the whole idea. Take this leaping-off-with-rubber-band thing, which is called Bungee Jumping. It looks mad, but it can be the most unforgettable experience of your life. If you jump once, it's bound to change you in ways you cannot immediately understand.

That's because adventure sports are not just about fun. Since they force you out of everyday life and throw you into a situation where you are alone with yourself and your courage, they are great character-building tools. You will discover strengths you did not know you possessed. When you find the guts

RAPID HEARTBEAT... POUNDING BLOOD!

to leap off that wall, you will find the guts to face many of the nasty surprises that life has a habit of throwing at us.

When I went Bungee Jumping a few years ago, I was terrified. I remember standing on the platform 150 feet high, wondering if I was batty. What was I doing up here, waiting to jump into thin air? Before I could run away, it was my turn. The instructors tied the cord around my ankles and explained how to leap off gracefuly! I crouched low, curled up into a ball and jumped, screaming for dear life. When I opened my eyes, I was dangling upside down; I was queasy but alive. And I was thrilled beyond belief. I was so keyed up, I felt I floated on air the rest of the day.

In fact, that is why adventure sports are also called 'adrenaline sports'. They are so exciting, they instantly cause the body to produce a rush of the adrenaline hormone, increasing your heart beat and pounding your pulse.

In parasailing,

The following particulars regarding the ownership of 'GOKULAM' the English Monthly newspaper, are published, as called for by rule 8 of the Registration of Newspapers (Central) Rules 1956

FORM IV

1. Place of Publication	:	Chennai
2. Periodicity of Publication	:	Monthly
3. Name of Printer	:	Lakshmi Natarajan
Nationality	:	Indian
Address	:	Old No. 36, New No.12 4th Main Road, Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020
4. Name of Publisher	:	Lakshmi Natarajan
Nationality	:	Indian
Address	:	Old No. 36, New No.12 4th Main Road, Kasturba Nagar, Adyar, Chennai - 600 020
5. Name of Editor	:	Seetha Ravi
Nationality	:	Indian
Address	:	'Mangala Ganesh', Second Floor, 15, IV Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600 041

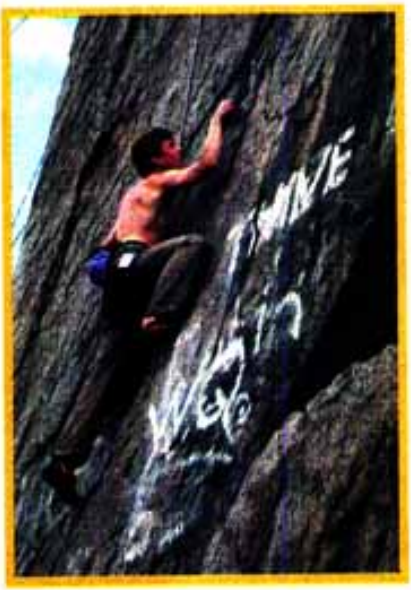
6. Names and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one percent of the total captial. **Bharathan Publications Private Limited, 47-NP., Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.**

I hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1.3.2007 Lakshmi Natarajan
Publisher

you are harnessed to a parachute towed by a jeep, and when the jeep starts moving, the chute rises up slowly. Soon you are floating about 200 feet off the ground, as close to flying as you will ever come. Believe me, you won't want to come down soon.

Then there's Rock Climbing, both on real and artificial rock faces, which is hard work but excellent exercise. In Sky Diving, you jump off the plane but don't deploy your parachute immediately.



You free fall for several hundred feet and open your chute with just enough time to land safely.

There are several water-based adventure sports too. For instance, Wind Surfing or using a surfboard to ride the crest of incoming waves. You can do Parasailing from a boat as well, or go Scuba Diving to explore the depths of the oceans. You can go Whitewater Rafting or Kayaking down rapidly flowing mountain streams.

Before planning your holiday, search the internet for adventure sports in India to find what you want to do and where.

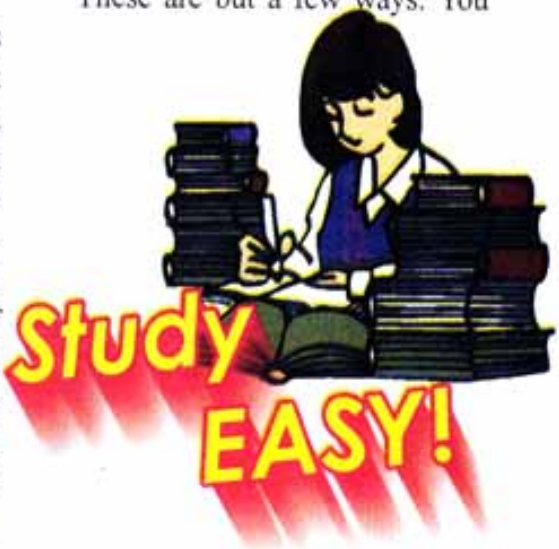
I could go on, endlessly! Before I go, let me tell you about this zany experience I had in Himachal Pradesh. When we saw these huge inflated balls sitting about like giant pumpkins, we knew we had come to a Zorbing meadow. In Zorbing, you squeeze into this ball and strap yourself to a harness. Then, they set the ball rolling with you inside! The Zorb took me, shouting and tumbling, down the hill, finally stopping just short of the lake. I stepped out – breathless, but grinning widely. I had just discovered one more mad game!

Many of us study hard but have problems recalling due to tension. Hence we lose out on the all important marks. Here are some techniques which may prove helpful:

Try using mnemonics (pronounced nimonics). It means that you have to take a letter or more from each point and form a word. For example VIBGYOR—colours of rainbow in increasing wavelength. Create your own for each of those difficult answers! It could even be a funny sentence using key words from the lesson. Each letter or word helps you recall a point.

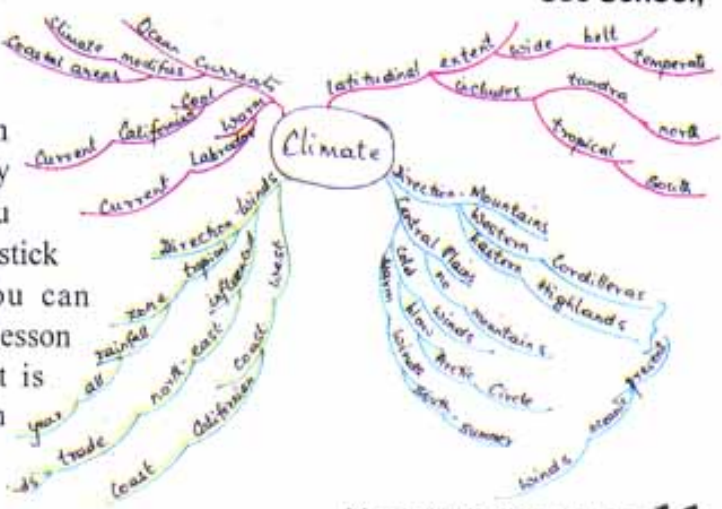
Mind Maps are very useful and helpful. You can easily remember the lesson by making the drawing colourful and pictorial. You can develop your own style. The more colours you use, the better it stays in the mind. You can draw as many lines as you want or even stick pictures. You can prepare each lesson as soon as it is completed in class and not wait till the exams. You will have more time then. Pictorial representation helps quicker recall. It is fun preparing these maps.

These are but a few ways. You will find that you will develop your own technique.

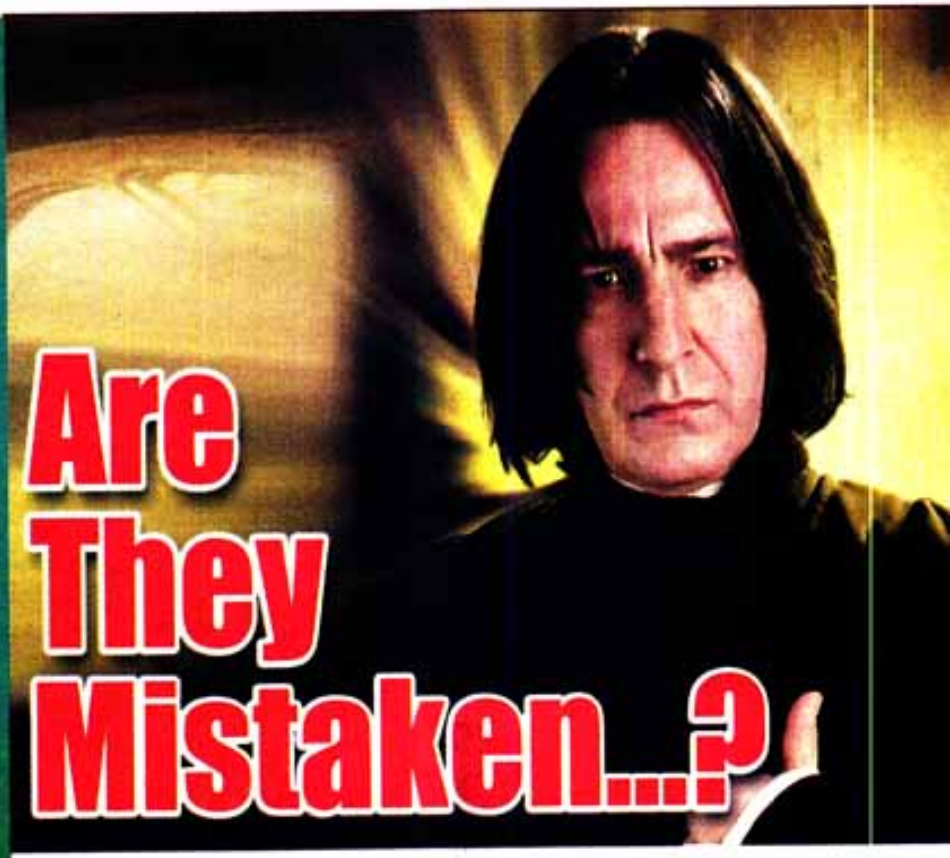


Happy studying. All the best

– R.Vignesh, Std X,
Sree Narayana Mission Sr. Sec School,



Are They Mistaken...?



Here are some mistakes found in each book of the Harry Potter Series.

Philosopher's Stone

In the first book, it is mentioned that the snake in the zoo winked at Harry. Harry can't be blamed for being so surprised, as snakes don't have movable eyelids!

In the chapter "The Sorting Hat," Nearly Headless Nick says that he hasn't eaten in "nearly four hundred years"; but in the second book, Harry goes to Nick's 500th Deathday Party, meaning that Nearly Headless Nick has been dead for 500 years, not 400!

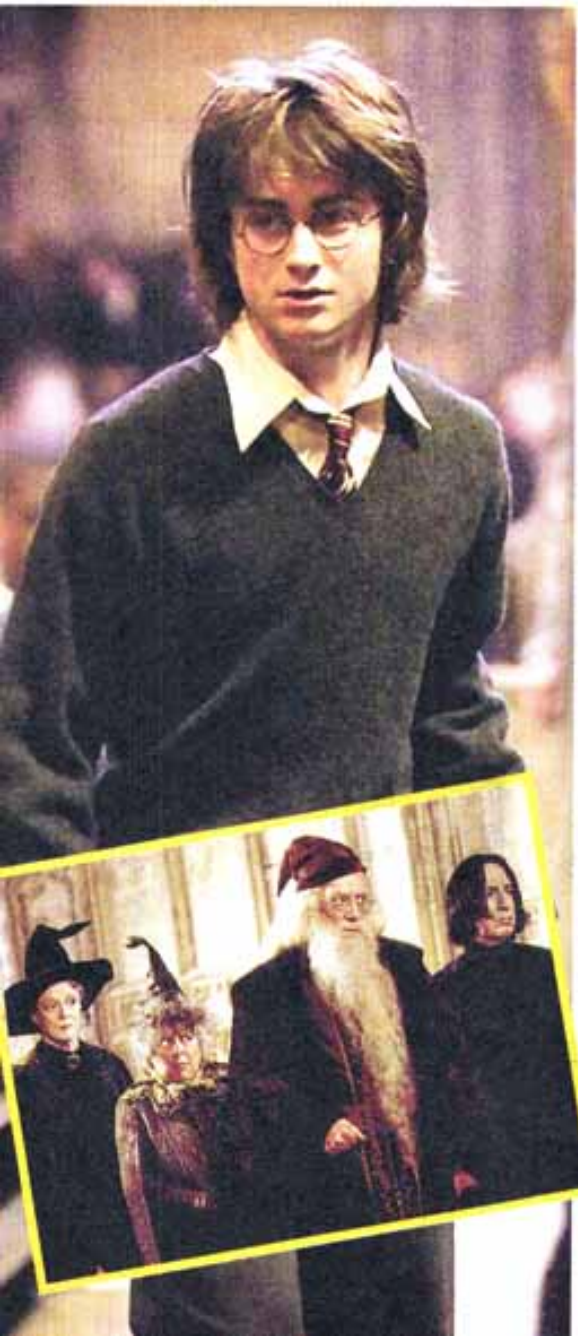
Chamber of Secrets

At the end of the second book Dumbledore tells Harry that Lord Voldemort is the last remaining *ancestor* of Salazar Slytherin. But it should say that Lord Voldemort is the last remaining *descendant* of Salazar Slytherin.

Prisoner of Azkaban

It says that after his exam with Professor Trelawney, "Harry got up, picked up his bag and turned to go." But when Professor Trelawney began her prediction, the book says:

"Her eyes started to roll. Harry sat there in a panic." How could Harry be sitting when it states that he got up right before Professor Trelawney began her prediction?



Goblet of Fire

In Chapter 26 of this book, Krum tells Hermione that she has a beetle in her hair, "but Hermione brushed away the beetle impatiently." In Chapter 37 on the train after she had captured Rita Skeeter, Hermione says that Viktor pulled the beetle out. Vet the book says that she brushed it away...?

Order of the Phoenix

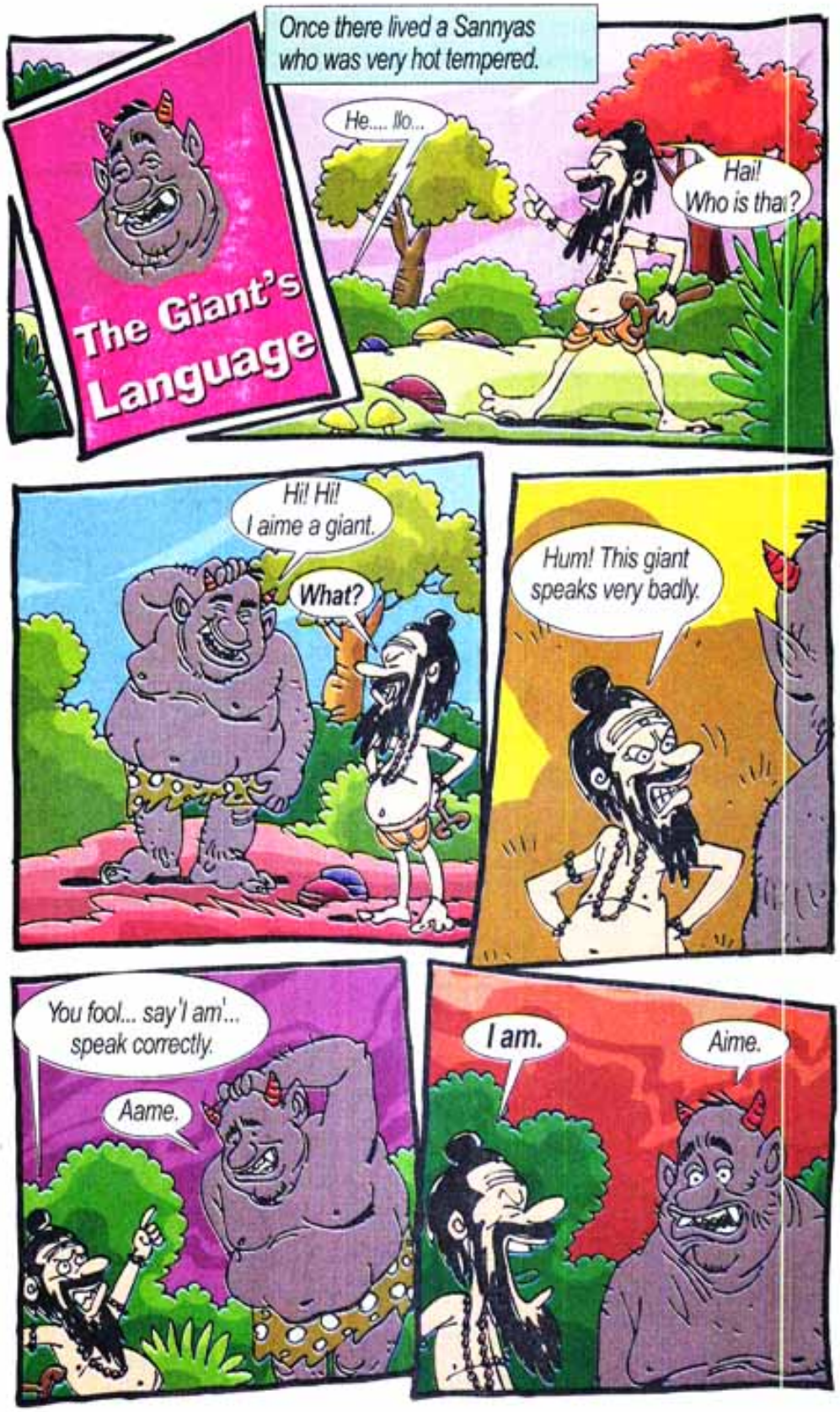
When the story opens, Harry is lying in his Aunt's hydrangea bush, but half a dozen pages later, he recalls that "someone magical had been near him as he lay among Aunt Petunia's *dying begonias*..."

Harry is able to see the Thestrals at the beginning of the book. It is later explained that you can see them only after you have seen death. Harry had seen the death of his mother and possibly his father before he saw Cedric Diggory die, so why didn't he see the Thestrals before?

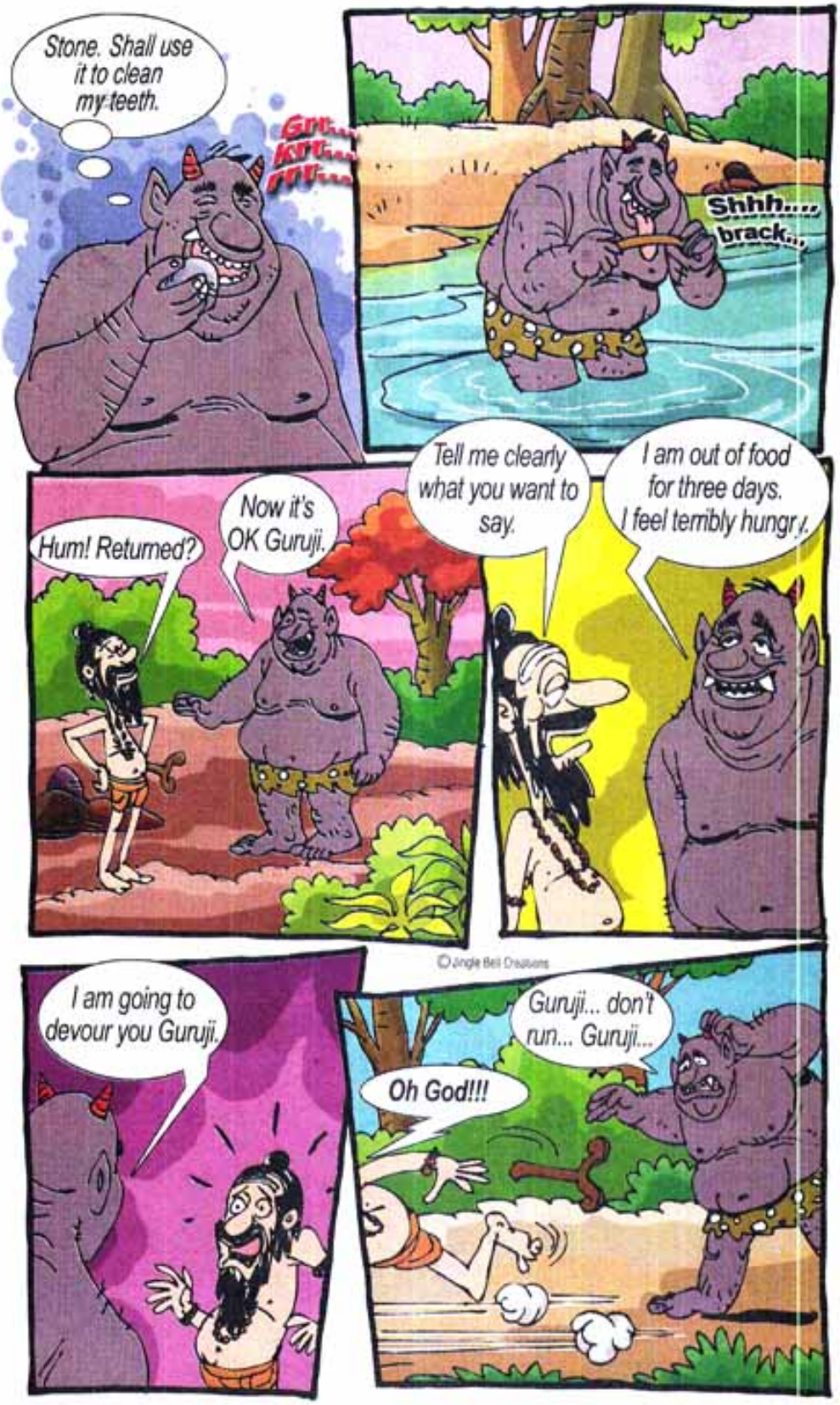
JKR's response: You can't see them until the death "sinks in."!!

Source: mugglenet.com

— T.Krishna Kumari,
Std VI, A.E.C.School,
OSCOM, Ganjam.


The Giant's Language
Once there lived a Sannyas who was very hot tempered.
He.... llo...
Hai! Who is that?
Hi! Hi! I aime a giant.
What?
Hum! This giant speaks very badly.
You fool... say 'I am'... speak correctly.
Aame.
I am.
Aime.

Hum! What are you trying to say?
I aime out of food...
... since thrie daiys.
You donkey, say three days.
Thrie daiys.
Three days.
Hai! Fool, still says wrongly.
Ow...
Go and brush your teeth; and clean your tongue also.
I shall do it...



© Jingle Bell Creations

Can We Cure INDIFFERENCE?

Medical facility is one of the basic needs of life. We can proudly say that India has forged ahead in the field of medical science. Indian doctors are rated among the best and there are many hospitals in India on par with the best in the world. Today, we even talk of Medical Tourism that is attracting foreigners to India to avail efficient and relatively inexpensive medical trseatment.

But, unfortunately all these medical facilities are confined only to large cities and to some large towns to a smaller extent. The heart of India i.e. rural India is still deprived of even basic medical facility.

The main reason for this lack in rural India is due to the total commercialisation of the medical practise. Today, hospitals are run as corporate business houses, whose main objective is to maximize profits. So, naturally they do not want to establish a hospital in rural areas where many people cannot afford even one square meal a day.

In the villages there are only Government sponsored Health Centres where you will find neither doctors nor medicines!

Majority of the rural population depends on the local *'Vaidyas'* for their medical requirements. Thousands of villagers die every year for want of proper and timely medical aid. Most of these deaths go unreported. Today, our country is considered a super power in information technology and is marching ahead to compete with developed nations in many other fields.

But how can we take pride in this when our rural brothers are still deprived of basic medical facilities!? What is the cure for our indifference towards them?!!

– Vignesh Swaminathan,
Std X, Antonio De Silva HS,
Mumbai

Name: **M. Irfan**
Age : 15
Address : Roll No: 3725, Wodeyar House, Sainik School, Bijapur – 586 102.
Hobbies : Playing football and computer games, swimming, reading novels.

Name: **C. Shashikant**
Age : 15
Address : 7-4-39/1, Feroze-guda, Van's Nagar Colony, New Bowenpally, Secunderabad – 500 011.
Hobbies : Collecting knick-knacks, playing computer games, listening to music, making friends.
email: shashikantche@yahoo.com

Name: **B.Janaki**
Age : 14
Address : Mount Abu, Vijaya Heritage, Kadma, Jamshedpur – 831 005.
Hobbies : Playing cricket and table tennis, reading and surfing the net.

Name: **Deeksha**
Age : 14
Address : Aravali House, JNV Chara, Karkala – 576 112.
Hobbies : Dancing, singing, embroidery, swimming and watching TV.

Name: **E.S. Ashwini**
Age : 9
Address : L.B.S School, Sector 3, R.A.Puram, New Delhi – 110 022
Hobbies : Reading, drawing, singing, dancing and watching TV.

Name: **T. Supraja**
Age : 10
Address : 67, Kalyan Puri Colony, Sainikpuri, Secunderabad – 500 094.
Hobbies : Singing and painting.

Name: **Remya Joseph**
Age : 12

PEN

Address : B/108, Dheeraj Pooja, Chincholi, Bunder Road, Malad (W), Mumbai – 400 064.

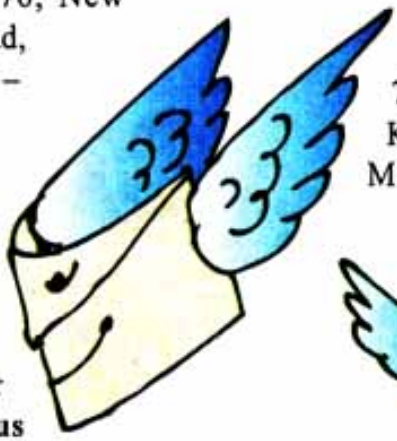
Hobbies : Reading, singing, cycling, playing, making friends.

Name: **S.Tarun Kumar**

Age : 12

Address : 76, New Boag Road, T.Nagar, Chennai – 600 017.

Hobbies Reading, cycling and playing video games.



Name: **Byabang Cyrus Heema**

Age : 13

Address : C/o SMO, Heema Clinic, Thana Road, Itafort, Itanagar, Papumpare Arunachal Pradesh.

Hobbies : Reading, trekking, cycling, dancing and surfing the net.

Arunachal Pradesh.

Hobbies : Trekking, reading, making friends, Harry Potter fan.

Name: **Ms.Sujani Balakrishnan**

Age : 11

Address : 426/11,4/7, Jasmine Apartment, K.Cyril, C.Perera Mawatha,

Colombo – 13, Srilanka.

Hobbies : Collecting stamps and reading books.

Name: **Gayatri Varma**

Age : 14

a few lines... to a PAL!

Name: **Ms. Hano Pilling Sumpi**

Age : 13

Address : C/o Tilling Yapii, Block Development Officer – CD Block, Namsai Dist, Lohit – 792 103,

Address : Indian Guest House Palace, D.H. Road, Cochin – 682 016

Hobbies : Reading, playing tennis, acting, making friends, watching T.V.

Anti Cancer

• ***Monica, Chennai***

? What is beta-carotene? Is it a vitamin? How is it useful for us?

!Beta-carotene is a natural pigment lurking in yellow–orange fruits like mangoes, carrots and papayas and deep green vegetables like spinach. It is not a vitamin by itself. It is 'precursor' of vitamin - A. That is, our body splits a molecule of beta-carotene to create two molecules of vitamin A. Beta - carotene has anti-cancer properties. It helps to enhance our immunity. Fruits like tomatoes, apricots oranges and raspberries and vegetables like curry leaves, radish leaves, mint leaves, cabbage and lettuce also contain a lot of beta-carotene.

• ***Rakesh Banik, Kolkata***

? What is Hepatitis - B infection? How is it caused & cured? Is it worse than cancer and AIDS?

! It is a disease caused by the Hepatitis-B virus. This virus is found in the blood and body fluids of an infected person. The virus attacks the liver and makes it swell. Later it leads to liver cancer and death. There is no cure for this disease. It is worse than AIDS. Getting vaccinated can prevent it.

• ***Harsitha .M, Kasargod.***

? I am 13. How can I get rid of the pimples on my face?

• ***V. Annapoorni, Trivandrum.***

? I am 12 years old. I have a lot of pimples. I do not use any creams or powders. I wash my face 5-6 times a day. How can I get rid of the pimples?

! Here are some ways to get rid of the pimples:

1. Keep the face clean always. Wash your face with soap and lukewarm water as often as possible.
2. Do not use face powders, talc or creams frequently.
3. Don't touch the pimples.
4. Drink plenty of water.
5. Avoid non-vegetarian food, sweets, butter, creams, puddings,

meat and eggs.

6. Increase intake of greens, spinach and other vegetables.

7. Take your doctor's advice on the medication to use.

• ***Himanshi Sahu, Korba***

? What is myopia? How is it cured?

Effect!

! Myopia is shortsightedness. In a normal eye, the light rays from infinity are brought to a focus on the retina and an image is formed on it and the brain tells us what we see. In the shortsighted eye, the light rays are brought to a focus before they reach the retina, because the eyeball is too long or because the converging power of the cornea or lens is too great. Because of this, objects at a distance appear blurred. This can be corrected by wearing concave lens glasses. More recently, a special "eximer laser treatment" is done on these people to correct eyesight permanently.

• ***A. Manivannan, Chennai***

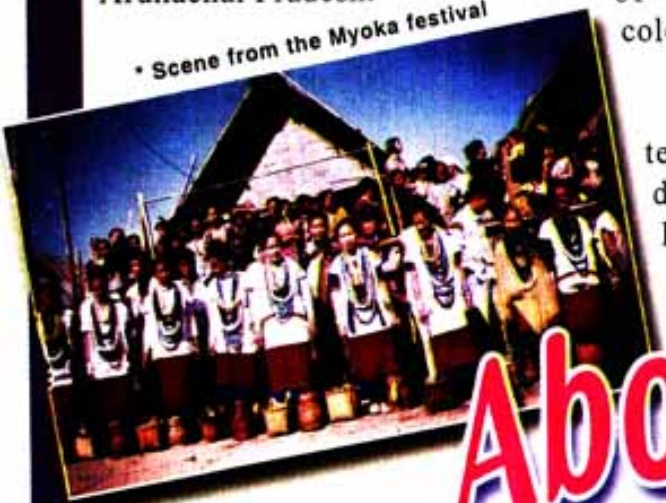
? What is gingivitis? How can we prevent it?

! Gingivitis is an inflamed condition of the gums. It is the result of poor oral hygiene. When brushing of teeth is not done properly, it leads to plaque build-up. Plaque is a soft and sticky film that accumulates in and around the teeth. The plaque gets hardened when it stays on the teeth for more than 72 hours and this is called tartar. Now the bacteria enter easily, causing inflammation of the gums that hold the teeth in place. The inflamed gums become red, swollen and bleed easily. Proper dental care, brushing, flossing and proper nutrition can prevent this condition. ○

• "I brush my teeth twice a day"

Abode in

Arunachal Pradesh, one among the seven sisters in the northeast, is rich in cultural heritage and scenic beauty. Visitors will never forget its snow capped mountains and valleys with hundreds of medicinal plants. It is believed that Sri Krishna's divine consort Rukmini hailed from Arunachal Pradesh.



• Scene from the Myoka festival

Ziro, my village is a place of natural beauty and scenic grandeur. It is one of the most beautiful hill stations of Arunachal Pradesh! Located about 1754 meters above sea level, it is uneven and dotted with a number of hillocks. Ziro is also called the land of the Apatanis (a major tribe of Arunachal Pradesh). The Apatanis are simple hard working people. A typical Apatani male has his hair knotted above his forhead, and has his chin tattooed. A female Apatani has her hair bundled in the back and her face tattooed. She wears a smooth stub of pitch black on her nose and heavy jewellery made of beads and various colours.

Ziro is the headquarter of Lower Subansiri district and it houses the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow and the circuit house. It also consists of many villages; like Bulla, Hari, Bamin, Michi Tajang etc.

When we enter any of these villages, Apatanis' houses welcome us. The houses are made

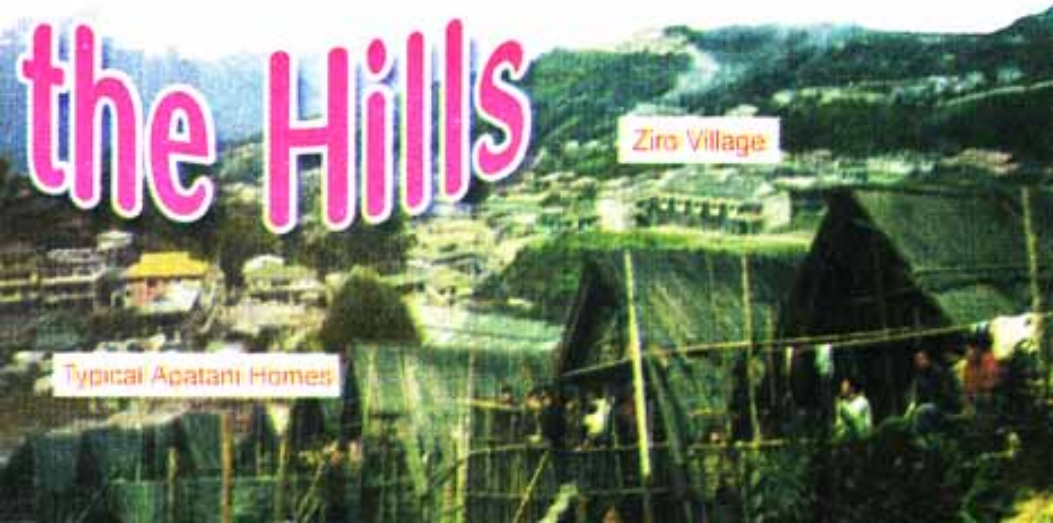
of thatched roof and materials like bamboo, cane and wood are used. Ziro is a spectacular sight during festivals like Myoko, Murung etc. One can see the Apatanis wearing their traditional clothes and moving from village to village displaying shinning daos (a small sword) and chanting "Ho, Ho..." (traditional mantra) together.

Ziro is rich in fauna and flora. It has lots of medicinal plants, different types of bamboo, pine trees and rare orchids. Mithun, a rare species of wild animal is exclusive to Ziro. Sometimes hornbills are sighted too.

Agriculture in Ziro is very unique. Paddy is grown here. The terraced field is very scientific and the irrigation channels are structured in such a way that water is distributed evenly, despite the undulating nature of the land. Nowadays farmers have started to cultivate cash crops like apple and large cardamom too.

The Shivalinga found in the Kardo forest of Ziro is known to be the largest in Asia. Hundreds of devotees regularly visit the Shivalinga and offer their prayers. The state government has taken serious steps to preserve the sanctity of the place and the place has been named "Sidheswar Mandir". My village Ziro is one of the coldest areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

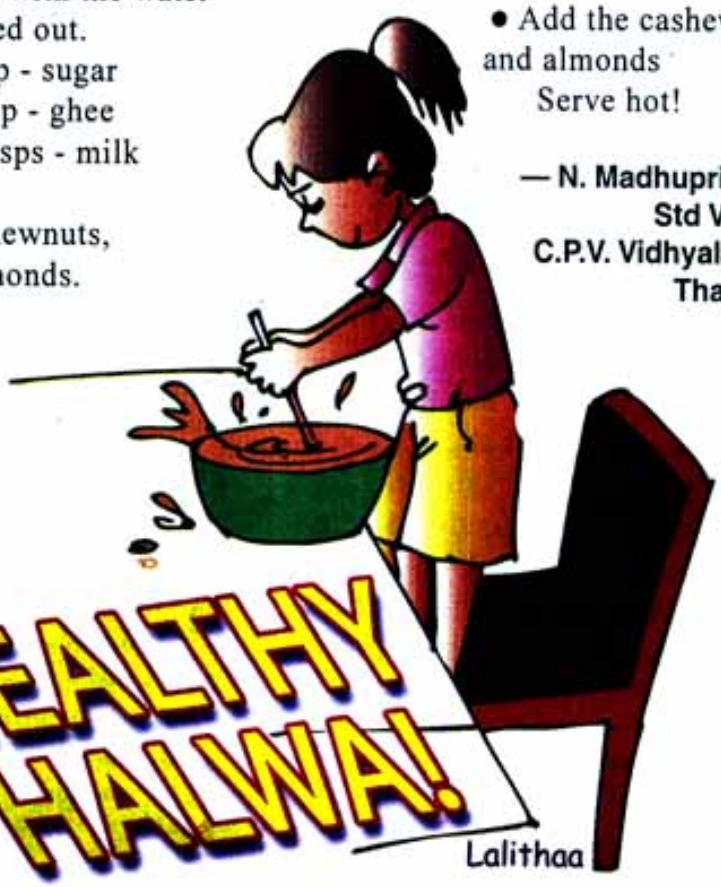
— Habung Dunia, Std VI,
Vivekananda Kendra
Vidyalaya, Itanagar



HEALTHY HALWA!

Here is a light, healthy, and easy to prepare sweet for you. Bottle gourd is full of iron, you know!

2 cups - grated bottle gourd - with the water squeezed out.
1 cup - sugar
½ cup - ghee
3-4 tsps - milk powder
Cashewnuts, and almonds.



- Heat one tsp ghee in a pan, fry the nuts and set aside.
- Add the rest of the ghee, and the bottle gourd to the pan and cook for ten minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Gradually add the sugar and milk powder, stirring well to avoid lumps.
- Allow to cook till the ghee separates.
- Add the cashews and almonds

Serve hot!

— N. Madhuprita, Std VIII, C.P.V. Vidhyalay, Thane

Adding salt to a dish is very tricky! The dish turns out too salty, don't throw it away. All you need to do is to add a small potato — boiled and peeled — to the salty dish. And lo! the excess salt disappears!

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

We love reading. **Naturally we love Gokulam!**

Subscribe Now

Name : .....

Address : .....

: .....

: ..... **Pin :** .....

Period : Inland	☐ **1 year** Rs.120/-	☐ **2 years** Rs.220/-	☐ **3 years** Rs.320/-
Overseas	☐ **$ 26**	☐ **$ 50**	☐ **$ 75**

Amount enclosed : Rs. ☐ **Only Demand Drafts and Money Orders accepted**

You can also register with your newspaper agent for a month after month door delivery.

The Circulation Manager
Gokulam
'Kalki Buildings',
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Ekkaduthangal, CHENNAI - 600 032.
E-mail : subscription@kalkiweekly.com

If we are not friendly by nature, we cannot be successful anywhere in the world or in anything we do. Friendliness is a basic quality that should blossom through education, through living in a community and by being in a school. Come out of your embarrassment. Don't wonder what the other person will say – will they greet me or not, acknowledge me or not? Will I get hurt and lose my self-esteem? If you can put aside all these considerations, greet someone and make a new friend, your personality blossoms. Don't you think so?

How can you solve a problem? When you can take it as a challenge. What is the difference between a problem and a challenge? When you think of something as a problem, you are part of the problem, not part of the solution. When you take something as a challenge, then you are part of the solution, rather than being part of the problem.

Overcome this machine-like existence. Then you will have a lot of fun in life.

A challenge is like an adventure. Be adventurous. See, your personality bloom.

If you can laugh at whatever may happen to you, you have achieved something very profound in your life. There is nothing great in laughing when everything is alright. Everybody does it! But someone who is educated, who is strong, who is flowering in his personality, should

react. We become predictable machines. Overcome this machine-like existence. Then you will have a lot of fun in life. There is a lot of fun to be had in life every day, whether in school or outside of school. So when you feel right in your mind, fresh and light and happy, you will become very good in your studies.

GRAB the CHALLENGE!

be able to laugh when everything falls apart because laughter will give him the strength to manage any situation. So take this step. If someone hurls an insult at you, first give a hearty laugh.

Everyone is like a machine. Someone presses a button in you and you flare up. Another person pushes another button and you

Riddle Dee

I. All Accounted For!

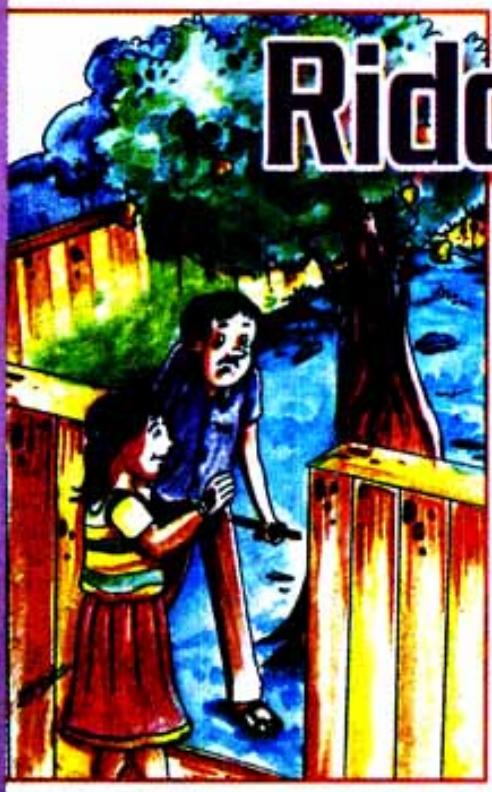
A girl was asked by her father to pluck some mangoes from their garden. She was told strictly that she should bring in all the mangoes she plucked. The path to the orchard had three gates, each with a watchman.

All three watchmen asked her to leave behind exactly half the mangoes she plucked. She agreed but said that each should give her one mango from what he got.

She managed to meet all the conditions and return to her father with all the mangoes she had plucked!

How many mangoes did she pluck?

— M.Aarthy, Std IX, St.Joseph's Mat.Hr.Sec.School, Madurai



II. Letter puzzle

1.It is a seven-letter word.

Remove one letter, and it remains the same.

Remove three letters from it and it remains the same.

Remove five letters from it and it remains the same

Remove all seven letters from it and it remains the same.

What is it?

2. I am first in race and second in track.

I am third in throw and fourth in court.

Who am I?

— C. Apoorva Kumar, Std VIII, Ramjas School, New Delhi

III. Name the city that ...

1 .... is fast

2 .... is wise
3 .... makes news
4 .... is truthful

Riddle Dum

5 .... has a lot of space

— N. Prajorpathikalai, Mangalam Mat Hr.Sec.School, Bhuvanagiri

IV. India's First Women

1. Who was India's first woman journalist?
2. Who was India's first woman stock exchange president?
3. Who was India's first woman vice-chancellor?
4. Who was India's first woman cricket umpire?
5. Who was India's first woman post master general?
6. Who was India's first woman air marshall?

— A. Anees Fathima, IX Std, S.A.B. Mat. Hr.Sec.School, Uthamapalayam

V. Riddles

1. Which nut sounds like a sneeze?
2. When is a boxer like an astronomer?
3. Why are movie stars so cool?
4. What game do people play in the mall?
5. What did the farmer say when he lost his tractor?

- T.M. Shilpa, Std VIII, New Delhi

VI. What's common?

These words have one thing in common. What is it?

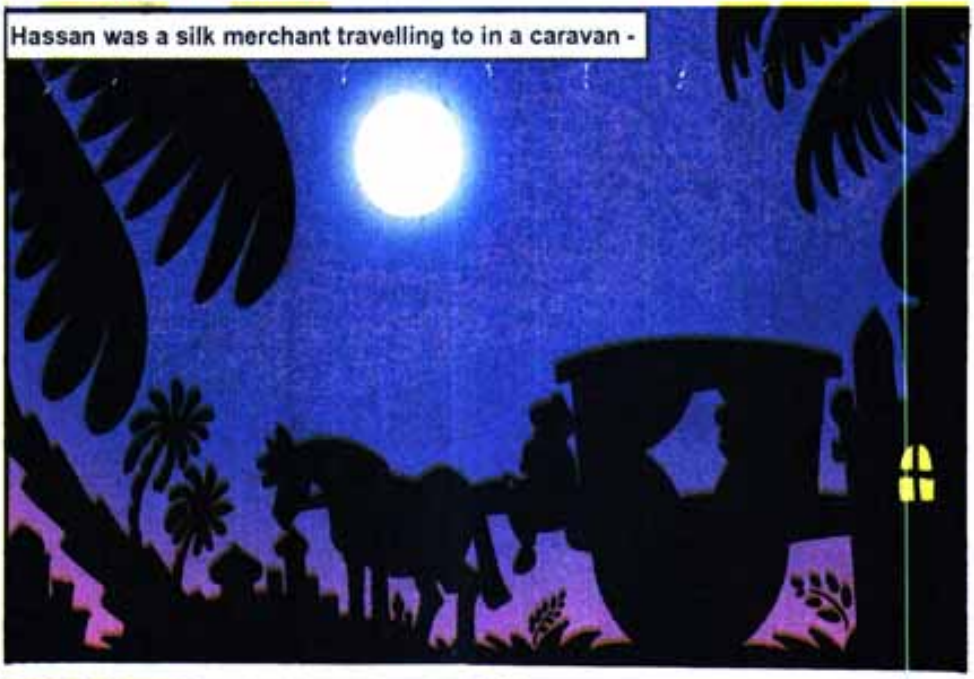
a) Banana
b) Dresser
c) Grammar
d) Potato
e) Revive
f) Uneven
g) Assess

— P. Sushma, Std IX, S.D.H.Jain Vidhyalaya, Madurai

Answers on page 45

'Driven' to Prison!

Story: R.Saradha Picture: Mahesh



In the city.
This is my chance to become rich.
In the market place...
Come and buy the finest silk in this land...
Give me ten yards...
He becomes very rich.
Now no one will recognize me as the caravan driver.
Hassan arrived in the city
It is four days since I came. There is no sign of the caravan or the driver.

Suddenly
Hey! Caravan driver, I have been searching for you. Where are my bales of silk?
I beg your pardon!

You are mistaken my man. I am a wool merchant from the west.
You are trying to cheat me. Let us go to court.

At the court...
He has stolen my bales of silk, my lord.
That is not true, my lord.

Since there is no witness who saw you giving your bales of silk to this man, I cannot give a judgement. He is free to go.
As the caravan driver left...
Caravan driver
Yes Sir?
The cheat instantaneously responded when addressed as 'caravan driver'!
You have cheated! Return Hassan's money You will go to prison for a month.

The story so far...

The Mehras are hunting for their lost dog named Biscuit, when they meet Sunita walking her daschund Snoopy. Sunita takes them home to her mother Sangeetha who is an animal activist, so that she can help. All of them set out to the Mehra's apartment help find Biscuit.

Ranjith and Suresh, Sunita's neighbourhood pals have seen Biscuit being taken away in a vet's van — a fake one they suspect.

Meanwhile, a friend of Ranjith's contacts them saying that a cream Labrador has come up for sale in another part of the city. Could be Biscuit...? A famous film star's dog 'Poopsie' is kidnapped and the trail gets hot.

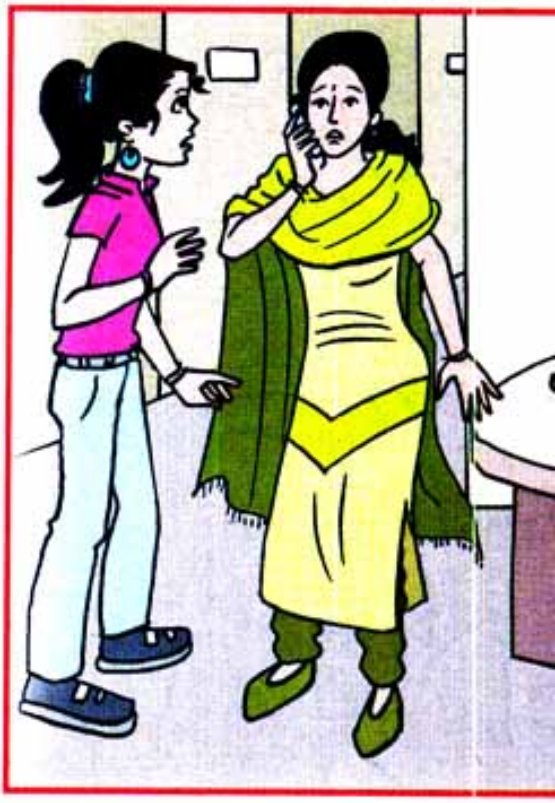
Sangeetha makes a plan along with Mythili, to nab the kidnappers. Sunita is crucial to the plan

Read on...

Where is Karan?

Sunita was summoned to the school office that afternoon. To her surprise, Sangeetha was there, a worried look on her face. In her hand, was a sheet of paper. "What's up ma?" she asked. "I am taking you home," said Sangeetha, waving the sheet of paper in front of her, "Your principal has given permission."

Sunita completely mystified, ran back to class to excuse herself and get her bag. On the ride back home she got all the news. Karan, it



seemed, was missing. He usually walked to school which was on a road parallel to their home. He had not reached school. His mother, who was sick with a viral fever, had not packed Karan's lunch in the morning and had sent the maid to school with the lunch. The maid returned with the mystifying

news – Karan was not in school!

Karan and his family were new to the city, having moved from Delhi about six months ago. His father had just left for Europe and could not be contacted. His mother, in panic, had contacted Sangeetha. "We are now going to their house," said Sangeetha,

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING DOG

"I will not be able to pick you up in the evening. Besides, I will need your help with this new problem."

Dangerous Venture

Karan's mother Meena, looked completely sick. It was obvious that not only was she ill, but that she was also completely beside herself with worry. When Sunita and her mom entered their house, Meena looked up sharply only to look away with a disappointed look and trembling mouth. She looked like she was going to cry.

As Sangeetha spoke to her about her missing son, it was obvious that she was completely mystified and said, "There have been no calls for a ransom either. Hope Karan is fine and he is just in a friend's house or something. The police are searching all the hospitals in the area and in the other parts of the city too. My husband left early this morning to catch a flight and is unreachable..." She began sobbing and it took her about a minute to calm down. "I don't

know what to do," she concluded.

Sangeetha looked worried and thoughtful. Now this was a complication and it could have something to do with the 'dognapping' or it could be something completely coincidental, a straight-forward kidnapping. She said nothing however, but Sunita could see that her mom was now in the middle of some hard decision making. The signs were there for her to see – the bottom lip being chewed, a finger worrying a strand of hair…

"Ma," she ventured, but was hushed by Sangeetha immediately. Sangeetha got up to go outside the house. Sunita could see that she was talking on her mobile phone. She waited with Meena Aunty not knowing what to do…

In five minutes, Sangeetha was back. "We have to go out urgently now," she declared, "Sunita, you need to come with me. Meena, we will be back in a couple of hours. You must be careful and if you get any call about Karan, please call me. You know my number."

Meena nodded and then, her mobile phone rang. She eagerly grabbed the little instrument and then, disappointment writ large on her face, she shook her head at the waiting twosome as she began to speak. Nothing to do with Karan. Sangeetha and Sunita left the house.

Plans, and Operation Biscuit

"Sunita," Sangeetha began, as she began to drive, "Listen to me very carefully. You and I are going to pay this vet a visit. I have the address and it is a rather large clinic – an animal hospital as well as a holiday home… you know, the kind place where people leave their pets to be taken care of while they are off on a holiday. It is run by three doctors and seems to be a rather large operation of its kind. Now you and I are going there to check out their holiday shelter services, since we are taking a month's holiday to America… Got that?"

Sunita understood."Meanwhile," continued Sangeetha, "Mythili Aunty is going to come there at about

The Emperor Penguin is the world's largest penguin. It is about three ft. tall and weighs about hundred pounds!

— Srinidhi Sridhar, Std IX, Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya, Trichy

Did you know..?

the same time. She is going to pose as someone who wants to adopt a dog. Please don't recognize her or smile or say hello to her. You must pretend she is a stranger, okay? Leave the rest to me..."

Sunita looked worried. Sangeetha, however, did not notice. "Sunita," she said finally, "There is one more thing I want you to do. You will have to carry this bag (she pulled out a colourful backpack with a Scooby Doo on it). As soon as we enter, just press this button, can you see it? The silver button." Sunita nodded.

"We are almost there," Sangeetha surmised, "One minute, let me ask for directions."

They stopped by an auto stand and asked for directions. Soon they were there. It was a fairly large compound with the legend, 'We Love Your Pet' on a huge hoarding with plenty of lovely cats and dogs in it. Below was a board, 'Animal Kingdom - Veterinary Services'. The board also listed all that they did — 'Vets on call, animal hospital, shelter, holiday home and more! Your pets in safe, loving hands!'

They drove right in. "Mythili is already here," muttered Sangeetha. Sure enough, Sunita recognized Mythili Aunty's battered old green 800 in the parking, a few cars away.

It was a very impressive modern building. Inside, a smiling receptionist welcomed them and asked what they wanted. "We want to check out your holiday shelter," said Sangeetha smiling back, "We are due to visit the U.S. for a month and we need to leave our daschund in safe hands." Sunita quietly activated the silver button on her backpack as she slung it on one shoulder.

"Sure," said the receptionist. "Please be seated. Someone will be with you in a minute and take you around. You can take a look at all our facilities if you are interested. Believe me, they are impressive."

"Oh, that sounds good," gushed Sangeetha, "Of course, we will be!

Did you know..?

Forty percent of the world's newspapers are printed on paper made from the trees of the forests of a single country — Canada!

— K.J.Kishore, Std VIII, Kendriya Vidyalaya – Tambaram, Chennai

Did you know..?

The railway platform at Kharagpur in West Bengal is 833 mts long. It is the longest in the world!

— P. Eniyan, Std X, Jai Gopla Garodia National HSS, Chennai

My daughter and I love animals and plan to adopt one more dog... But at a later date of course..."

A Phone Call

The receptionist smiled back at them and dialled a number. As she began to speak, Sangeetha's mobile rang. Sangeetha frowned. "It's Mythili," she muttered under her breath, as she put her mobile to her ear and said, "Hello!" Then, "Omigod!" she exclaimed, as she listened. She chewed her lip and her face went red. Then handing the mobile to Sunita she whispered, "Hold the line. I need to run out and make a call. Meanwhile, walk about the compound and pretend to speak, but don't make a sound into the phone, okay?" Sunita nodded. She was completely baffled!

Sangeetha quickly walked up to the receptionist and smilingly said, "Sorry, I just need to go out to the medical store opposite and get a tablet. I have an awful headache. I have asked my daughter to wait here for me. Can you please keep an eye on her?"

"Sure madam," said the woman, "It will take our person five minutes to come. It's no problem."

As Sangeetha quickly walked out, Sunita put the mobile to her ear. The line was open, since the call had come from Mythili Aunty's mobile. As her mother had instructed, she walked about the front of the building pretending to speak.

On the other end, she could hear the awful sounds of someone threatening and cajoling Mythili Aunty to speak the truth. From time to time, there was the sound of a banging fist or a slap. She hoped it was not really a slap, and that Mythili Aunty was not at the receiving end.

Suddenly, she heard Mythili Aunty's voice: "Let me go. I only came here to adopt a dog and how dare you tie me up like this? Who is this boy? Tell me? What are you people up to?"

Next time: **It's danger ahead!**

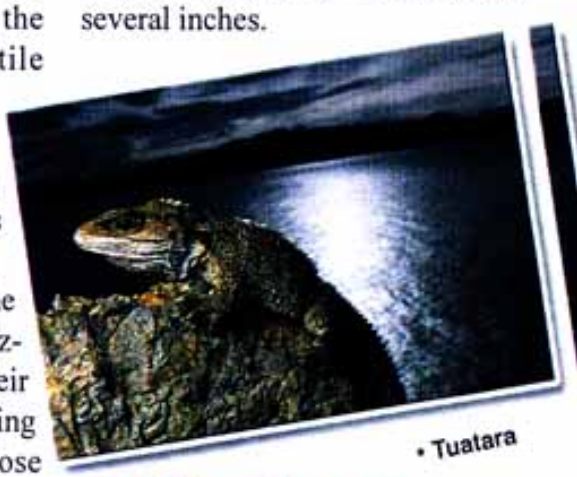
Vision with Eyes Shut!

Green lizards are found mostly in the Mediterranean countries. Green lizards are sold in petshops. Their elegant reptile shape and bright colour attracts people to buy them.

- Tuatara is a strange lizard like animal. It is the only animal in the reptile group which is placed in a separate sub-group—rhynchocephalior. Tuatara is found only on the islets of New Zealand.

- Skinks are one of the two largest families of lizards. They can see with their eyes closed. While burrowing or eating insects they close their eyes. They have a permanently closed, transparent eye lid over the eyes enabling them to see.

- The Horned lizard is commonly found in North America and Mexico. It squirts blood from its eye! Scientists have observed that the lizard is able to increase the blood pressure in its head, rupture the membranes of tiny blood vessels in its eyes, and squirt drops of blood to a distance of several inches.



• Tuatara

• Gila Monster

- Most lizards are harmless. The only poisonous lizards are the Gila Monsters with black and white marks on their body.

— C. Maheswari, Std XI, Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya HSS., Chennai

BORN FREE!

Watch me do the pull ups!

Ugh

Hey, look at the

Where is
my momma?

GOKULAM POSTER

astes awful!

Hmm... fresh grass..!

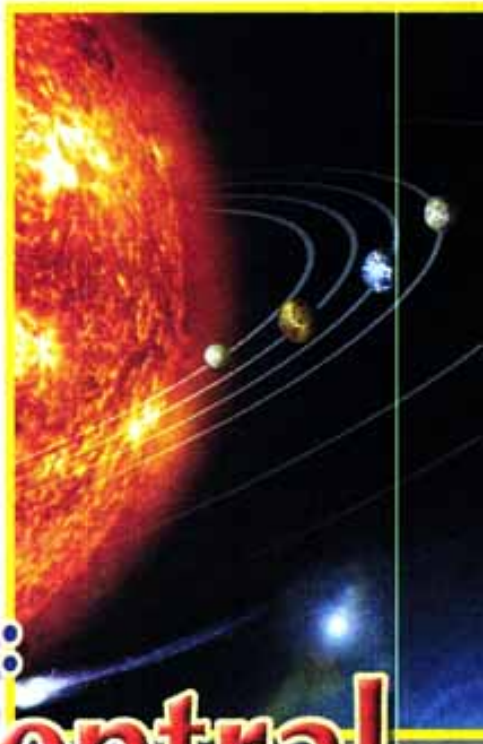
amera...

Ready,
teady...

Copernicus: The Central Question

A keen observer of the night sky soon realizes that most of the points of light remain fixed, relative to one another, returning to the same spot year after year. A few planets move about in complex ways. Most of the time they travel from west to east relative to the fixed stars. Occasionally they stop and reverse direction for a couple of months before resuming their normal eastward motion. Understanding how the planets move was the central question in cosmology in the days when the planets were thought to make up most of the known universe.

The task of explaining these odd movements fell to Nicolas Copernicus.



Copernicus correctly deduced that the sun lay at the centre of the solar system. Like a faster runner viewing his competitors, earth sees a slower outer planet appear to back up as we get ready to overtake it and then return to its normal direction of motion.

Nicholas Copernicus was born in 1473 in a village called Torun on the banks of river Vischula in Poland. He studied mathematics and medical science. He worked as a teacher in Rome where he taught astronomy. It was believed during the time of

Copernicus that the earth was stationary and the sun went around the earth. This was in accordance with the philosophy that the earth was the center of the solar system. Even Copernicus had to teach the same.

But Copernicus maintained from the beginning that the earth was round in shape and that it rotated on it's own axis.

Questions about the earth and planets made him wonder: Why should all the stars appear together once in 24 hours? We observe that we go round the sun once in a year and the sun seems to circumambulate us. Why should the sun cross all the planets from the east?

Copernicus wanted to find answers to these questions, which seemed to be paradoxical in the beginning.

Copernicus felt that the earth was also a planet and like any other planet of the solar system, the earth also went round the sun. Unfortunately he could not establish this fact decisively because the church authorities firmly believed in and upheld, with high esteem, the theory of earth as centre of solar system as propounded by Aristotle and Ptolemy, — the great scholars of that time.

Copernicus clearly mentioned in his thesis that the earth rotated around the sun like any other planet.

Kepler, Newton and other astronomers later endorsed the theory of Copernicus.

Immediately after the publication of his treatise, Copernicus died at the age of seventy. Therefore church authorities could not criticize him!

Later the Copernicus' theory was accepted, it became the turning point for astronomical studies.

Compiled by: **S. Mrityunjeyan, Age 17, Aurora Degree College, Hyderabad**

A City Called Jeans!

Here are some amazing facts we bet you do not know!

★ A species of earthworm found in Australia grows to a length of ten feet!

★ The shark locate fish by listening to their heart beat.

★ A silkworm has eleven brains!

• Flying Fox

★ A snail can sleep for three years!

— R. Janani , Std II, Chellammal Vidyalaya, Chennai

• As a health precaution, Alexander Graham Bell covered the win- dows of his home to block out what he thought were the harmful rays of the full moon.

• The world's deepest trench is the Mariana Trench. It lies in the Pacific Ocean and is about eleven thousand metres deep.

• A car's instrument panel is called the dashboard. The term dates back to the horse cart days when horses kicked up mud, splashing the passengers. The dashboard was invented to protect them.

• Bullet proof, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laser printers were all invented by women! So was over arm bowling!!

— S. Sai Hari Krishna, Std VII, Bhaktavatsalam Vidyashram, Chennai.

★ The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

★ The jeans got their name from Genoa, Italy, where they were first

• Mariana Trench

manufactured. Genes is the French name of the city.

★ A regulation golf ball has 336 dimples!

★ The screwdriver was invented before the screw! It was originally used to extract nails.

— Sumith Bhat, Std VII, Canara High School, Mangalore

• The largest bat in the world is the "Flying Fox". It got its name mainly because of the shape of its nose. Some of this species are found in the island of Java and have a wing span of 1.7m with a length up to 42cm.

• The largest butterfly is the Queen Alexandra's Birdwing, which has a wing span of 25cm.

• The largest, saggiest-skinned aquatic frog is found in Lake Titicaca in South America and is called "Telmatobius Culeus".

— Srinidhi Sridhar, Std IX, Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya, Trichy

Answers for Puzzles

I. **All Accounted For!** She plucked two mangoes! To each watchman she gave half of what she plucked- one – and got back one! So she was able to give her father the actual number of mangoes she had plucked!

II Letter puzzle

1) Post-box

2) Letter 'r'

***III* Name the city ...**

velocity, sagacity, publicity, veracity, capacity

IV India's First Women... 1. Swarna Kumar Devi, 2. Omana Abraham, 3. Hansa Mehta, 4. Anjali Rajagopal, 5. Sushila Chourasia, 6. Padma Pandhopadyaya

V Riddles

1. A cashew!, 2. When he sees stars!, 3. Because they have many fans!, 4. Price-tag!, 5. "Where's my tractor?"

VI What's common? Place the first letter, last and you get the same word backwards!

Across the

Mother was cooking our dinner in the kitchen. I was reclining on grandpa's easy-chair on the veranda. The sunset looked lovely. The rays from the sun stretched across the sky in bands of gold, rust and orange. Suddenly, an egg-shaped flying object came into view. It seemed to land behind the coconut grove. I ran across to see what it was. It was a very different looking aircraft. It had no wheels. It was hovering a few feet above the ground. All of a sudden a door opened and three aliens came out and walked towards me. I was so stunned that I wanted to scream but no sound came out of my mouth.

These alien creatures had lights for eyes, a tubular trunk with lights on them. There was no outwardly visible mouth but when one of them asked me to be silent, his voice made the ground vibrate! They stood on two legs but they didn't seem to have arms. I was shocked when two spring like arms suddenly came out of their shoulder when I tried to run away. Holding me by the arm an alien took me inside the spacecraft and asked me to sit down.

The spacecraft had many hi-tech instrument panels with flickering lights and beeping sounds. It was like the cockpit of many aircrafts fitted into one extra-terrestrial spacecraft. There were six aliens manning the controls. I asked them who they were. They were from a different planet and were taking me to their planet since their people were eager to see an earthling.

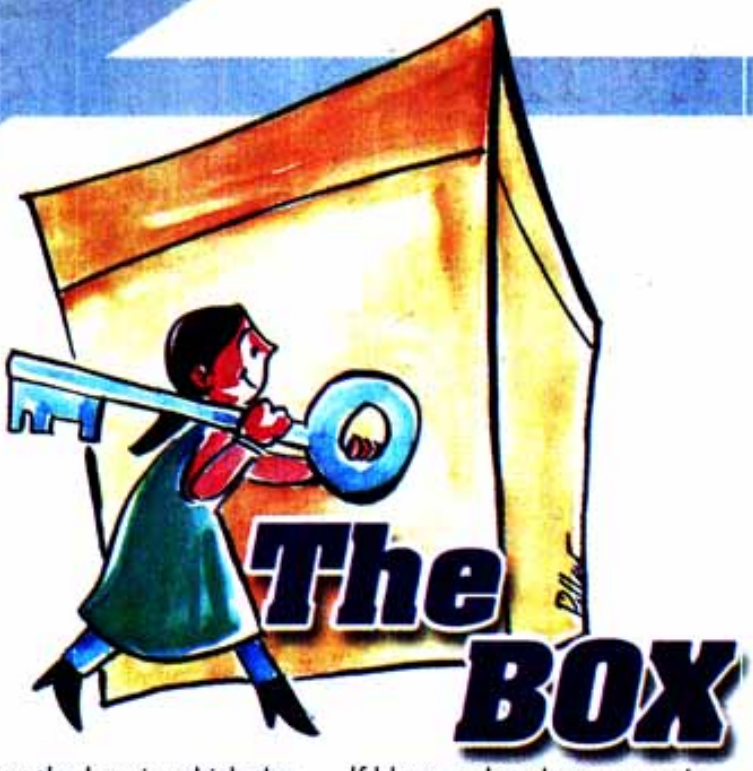
I would also get an opportunity to meet their people and travel through space to another planet. They gave me a book that had three dimensional pictures and facts about their planet. I felt difficulty in breathing and told them. They immediately had oxygen flowing into the craft. I felt better. In a very short while we reached their planet. As we stepped out of the craft, all the aliens who had gathered to receive us started chanting, "Mano! Mano!" I was confused. How did they know my name? I asked the chief alien how they knew my language. He said that the electro-magnetic radiation from the book in my hand helped them to understand my language. I called out, "Hari OM!" since that was the style of greeting in my school. I spent some time chatting with the aliens. We spoke about peace in the Universe.

Universe!

Soon it was time for me to leave. This time I sat next to a window of the craft that was moving at a speed faster than that of light. It was really amazing. I saw a huge ball with a ring surrounding it. They said it was 'Saturn'. Soon we could see planet 'Earth' approaching us. They put me down safely and told me to keep the book.

"My book! My precious book," I said patting the book — and woke up with a start. I was patting my Geography book that I had been reading when I had dropped off to sleep!

— Aswin Shyam, Std V,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Tripunithura.



The BOX

If I knew the box in which the
smiles were kept
No matter how large the key
I'd try and try... and try so hard
It would open, I know, for me.
Then over land and over sea
I'd scatter the smiles along the
way
So that all little girls and boys
Could smile for many a day.

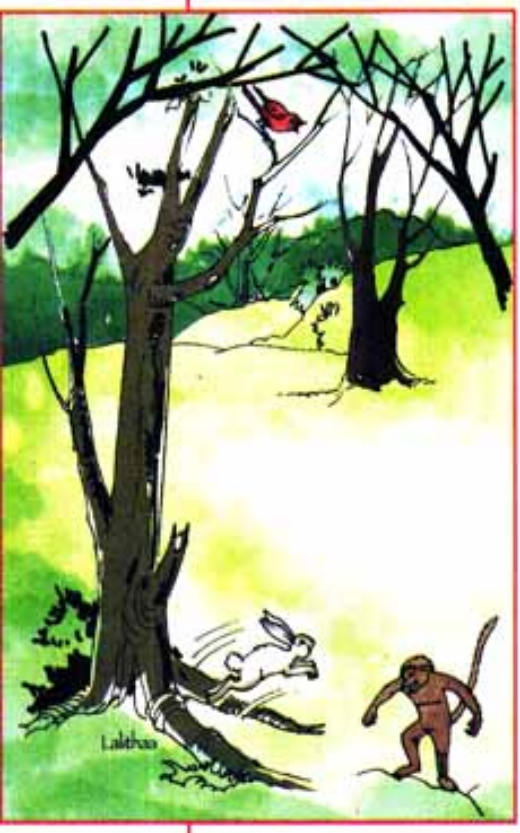
If I knew a box large enough
To hold all the frowns I meet,
I'd gather them... each and everyone
From school, home and street.
Packing them in as tight as I could
I'd turn the monster key,
And give a giant to drop the box
Into the depths of the deep blue sea.

— Ankita Kirkire, Std IX, SICES High School, Ambernath

THE GHOST!

I got up one night
To have a sip of water
And had my life's fright!
I grew hotter and hotter.
Floating in mid air
Was a scary frightening ghost
With very long hair.
I stood there aghast!
Because of it's long hair
I couldn't see its face
(If at all it had one)
Then I looked all over the place.

IN THE FOREST...



In the forest, a bird sat singing,
On a bough, merrily swinging!
In the forest, monkeys pranced,
In a clearing they gleefully danced!
In the forest, a snow white rabbit jumped.
On the ground his bush tail thumped!
In the forest squirrels scampered.
Through thorns and bushes, unhampered.
In the forest snakes did slither
Through the sand - hither and tither.
In the forest animals roamed free
In tune with nature, they were you see!

— H.Priyanka,
Std V, Good Earth School,
Tambaram, Chennai

I took to my heels
In horror, to save my life
The ghost glided as if on wheels
To follow me he did strive!

I was going to wake mom
When the ghost was no longer one!
It had 'taken off' its hair
I found it was only my sister.
Mom and sis had a hearty laugh
And all of us a mid-night snack.
I heaved a sigh of relief
The 'ghost' was a fine joke indeed!

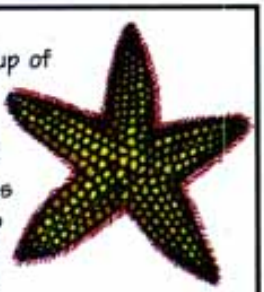
— P.M. Sreelakshmi, Std IX,
Airforce School, Bengaluru

Star Fish

—Aazhi

The starfish is not really a fish. It is called a starfish only because it is in the shape of a star and is found in the sea. It is in fact an echinoderm. The starfish is an invertebrate and belongs to the sea cucumber and sea urchin family.

The star is made up of water-filled tubes. These tubes end as discs on the under side of its body. These discs serve as 'legs' that help it move. The starfish breathe through these discs.



The starfish has no head and so no brain. It has a red photosensitive eyespot between two of its arms that helps it 'see'. The starfish have a keen sense of smell.

The mouth of the starfish is on the underside of its body. It sucks in molluscs and oysters that are its chief prey.

There are starfish with 16 arms called the Crown of Thorns. They feed on polyps in the coral. They have a unique way of getting their prey. They first squirt their digestive juices on the polyps and knock them unconscious. The prey is then sucked out.

Most starfish have five arms. However there are some that have more than five. There are a great variety of starfish of different shapes and colours.

• Sun Starfish

• Sunflower Starfish

• Sea Bat Starfish

• Mud Starfish

• Warty Sea Starfish

• Purple Starfish

• Blood Starfish

The starfish lay and hatch eggs just as any other fish. The hatchlings initially swim around frantically before settling on the ocean floor. They then crawl to get from one place to another. They sometimes even bury themselves in the mud.

All starfish are not poisonous. It is only the brittle starfish that is highly poisonous enough to cause death.

Starfish have a sensor at the tip of each 'limb'. With the help of this sensor it navigates to all directions, using the limb as an oar. The limbs grow back even if they are cut or injured!

Be Creative; Be a Contributor!

Write for Us! Become a Gokulam writer or reporter!

Send in your contributions to Gokulam either by post or e-mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

Each and every contribution you send must have the following:

Your Name — Mr/Ms, Your Age , Your Class, School name and Address, Your Residential Address

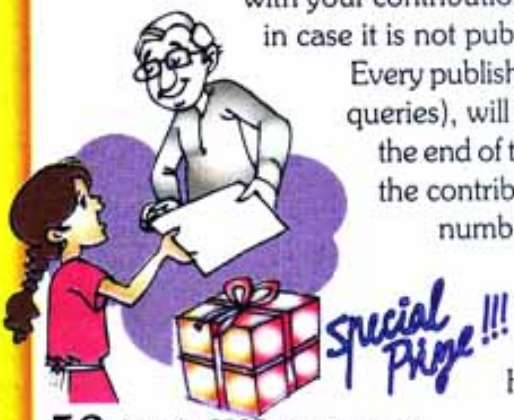
While news, fairy tales, myths, etc can be re-written you must tell us where you have picked this re-written material from. In other words, if you have used a 'source' for something you have written, you must tell us what the 'source' is. Otherwise, it will amount to copying!

We appreciate and welcome all ORIGINAL contributions and we encourage you to be CREATIVE. If we find that a contribution has been copied, the contributor will be black listed and lose future opportunities.

Though we may be unable to publish all your contributions, do not be disheartened - we would like you to know that every little snippet you send is read, considered and evaluated by us.

Please attach a self-addressed stamped envelope with your contribution so that it can be mailed back to you in case it is not published.

Every published contribution (other than letters and queries), will receive a Participation Certificate. At the end of the one year period ending June 2007, the contributor who has collected the maximum number of certificates will receive a special prize.



So be a Gokulam contributor and try to win the Special Prize! Here's wishing you All the Best!

K.R.VISALAKSHI

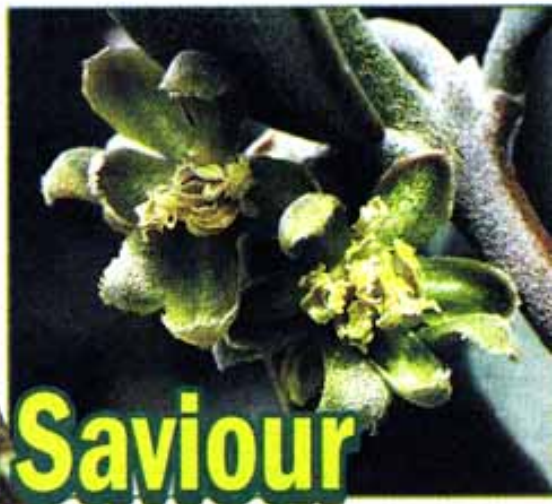
Saviour of the Sperm Whale

It is one of the miracles of nature that an evergreen shrub called 'jojoba' saved the largest living mammal — the sperm whale from extinction. The sperm whale has been hunted for centuries for its oil that has been in great demand for many useful purposes for mankind.

The jojoba also dates back to pre-historic times. Though it has attractive and luxuriant foliage it is prized for the oil contained in its nuts.

References to jojoba occur in the chronicles of Jesuit priests travelling through Mexico. It was popular among local Indian tribes for its medicinal and cosmetic purposes.

An amazing discovery in 1933 revealed that the oil found in the nut of the jojoba was made up of liquid wax and not fatty substances as in the case of other nuts. The absence of fat meant that the Jojoba oil was much purer and needed less refining than oils from other nuts. It became a valuable substitute for sperm whale oil and whale hunting declined.



The uses of jojoba oil are unlimited. Food processing and preservation industries use jojoba. It is used in the manufacture of lubricants, disinfectants and cosmetics. It has medicinal properties too. The residue of the plant is a good animal feed.

The 'jojoba' is the true hero of the plant kingdom.

Smoky Falls

A Memorable Journey

It is always exciting to get away from one's daily chores and visit new places. I was overjoyed when my family decided to go for a long journey to Hogenakkal during Christmas vacation last year.

Hogenakkal, in the Tamil Nadu- Karnataka border, is about 180 kilometres from Erode, where we live. We started at daybreak by car. The climate was cool and the scenery started changing once we left the outskirts of the town. Green landscapes, cultivated with sugarcane, turmeric, paddy and coconut groves welcomed us on the way to the hills. We soon entered protected forestlands where there were neither people nor houses for a very long stretch. Only groups of monkeys on the roadside trees casually watched us pass by.

We reached Hogenakkal just before noon. The place was already crowded with holiday revellers. We could hear the loud roar of many waterfalls from a distance. The wide river flowed through rocky terrain, winding through trees and caves to fall deep down on its way further, to join the Cauvery river.

After spending some time among the dark trees and the river flowing over shallow rocky beds, we decided to hire parisal (a round country boat made of palm leaves). We first went downstream between waterfalls on both sides. Then a short walk up the hills and we were in the upper section of the river and on to the boat again! The ride was just marvellous with hills towering on all sides and the wild river flowing down the valley. The main fall up the river was a fantastic sight, a huge mass of water falling deep down below. Water sprayed by the waterfalls created a mist all around and the sun shone

through it to create a wonderful rainbow.

The local driver of the boat told us how the place got its name Hogenakkal, in Kannada means cloudy or smoking rocks!

A short rest, and we were back to the river, this time for some real fun in the water. My brother and I got down to a shallow part and moved about. The rocks and the pebbled riverbeds were slippery. We started splashing water on each other, fell down a few times and were soaking wet soon. Wet anyway, I decided to have a bath. The water was chill, but I really enjoyed dipping myself in the pure, clear river.

The towering hills and huge trees around started casting their long shadows by this time. All good things have to come to an end and we reluctantly started our journey back to reach home by nightfall.

I have no words to express my happiness during this memorable trip. It has helped me a lot to understand and appreciate the wonders of nature. I look forward to more educating tours like this.

— Santanu Sasidharan,
Std VIII,Carmel School,
Erode

Your Own Name-plate!

You will need:

1 cup flour, ½ cup salt, 1 tbs oil, water, toothpicks, knife and paints.

Method:

- Mix together the flour, salt, oil and knead it into soft dough with water.
- Roll out the dough with a rolling pin on a flat smooth surface. Do not roll out too thin.
- With the help of a sharp knife cut out square tiles of side one inch.
- Carefully engrave one letter of your name on each of the tiles with the help of a toothpick.
- Now roll out the excess dough into a thin long strip.
- Place the strip along the letters engraved, and gently press it down.
- Leave it to dry in the shade.
- When dry, paint it with fabric paints.
- You can stick the tiles on a thick cardboard and hang it up on your door!

— M.R. Nandhini, Std XII, Bharathi Vidya Bhavan, Erode

Hank Ketcham's

DENNIS THE MENACE

Goodbye, Mr. Chips!

The Shoe Thief

This incident took place in my early childhood. Once a visitor to our house found that one of his shoes had been stolen. Since we kids were the prime suspects, the entire house was searched thoroughly, but in vain. This happened with many more of our visitors. Soon people were wary of coming to our house. We had to find out the culprit. After an extensive search, imagine our surprise when we discovered that a mother dog that had given birth to puppies in our compound was sneaking the shoes off for her puppies to play with!

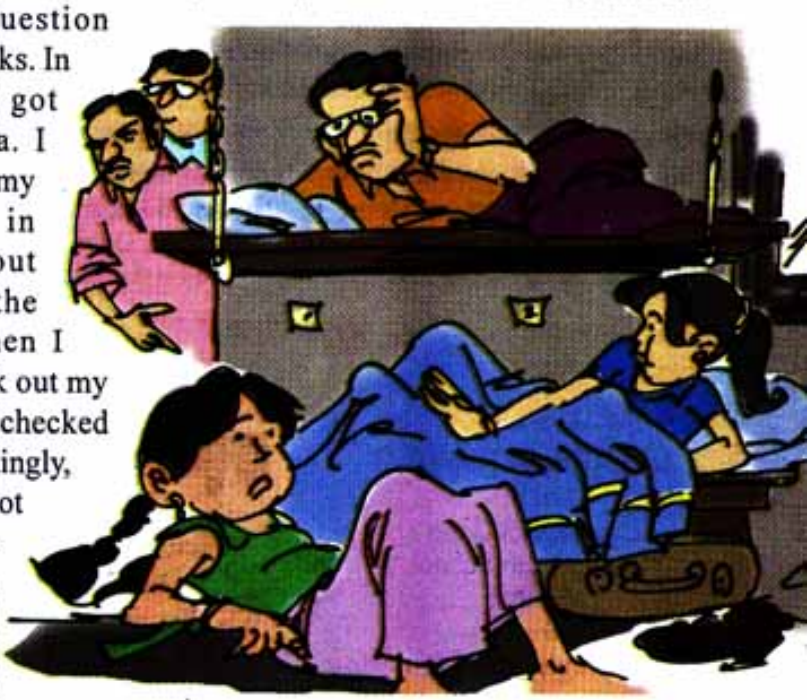
– M.R. Nandhini,
Std XII,
Bharathi Vidya Bhavan,
Erode

My dad had just returned from his office and my mother was speaking to him. I was playing with a marble. I had playfully put the marble inside my mouth. I was listening to their talk so seriously that I didn't realize the marble got stuck in my throat and I couldn't speak. My mother could see the marble inside my throat. She started panicking. My father just got up and hit me hard on my back. The marble popped out from my mouth and fell on the floor. My father's presence of mind saved me that day. Now, I don't play with marbles!

— R.Indukala , Std VI,
Kendriya Vidyalaya
Aundh, Pune

After the exams were over, I felt a sigh of relief. The holidays began and I enjoyed a lot. The school reopened after a gap of one week. We were given our answer sheets. When my Hindi paper was given to me, I went through it. In the third page of my answer sheet, I had got six marks for a question carrying four marks. In this way I had got two marks extra. I immediately put my answer sheet in my bag without proceeding to the next pages. When I went home, I took out my answer sheet and checked it again. Astonishingly, I found that I had not got any marks for a question carrying six marks. Our Hindi teacher had missed it by oversight. But, because of my dishonesty I lost more marks than I 'gained'! I was ashamed and learnt the value of honesty.

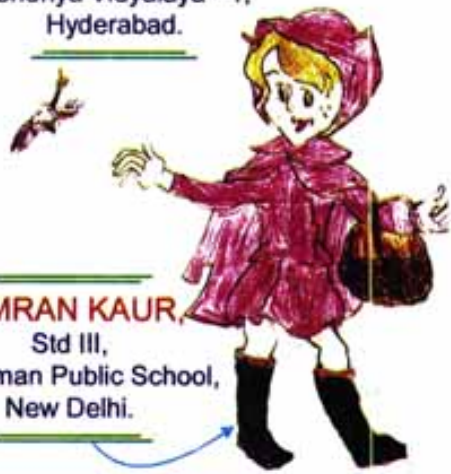
— T.E.L.Kesav Reddy, Std X, A.E.C.School, OSCOM



Once during the summer holidays, we went to Pune by the Mumbai Express. At night I slept on the lower berth while my cousin took the upper berth. Suddenly there was a loud thud. We all got up switched on the light to see my cousin on the floor. All of us were shocked. Everyone in the compartment woke up. Fortunately my cousin was still had not hurt herself. She was shifted to the lower berth, and I was asked to move to the upper berth. But I was scared that I would fall, so I didn't sleep that whole night. I am still wary of sleeping on the top berth!

— S.Dhivija, Std IX, S.B.O.A.MHSS, Chennai

SHAKUNTALA YADAV,
Std VII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya - 1,
Hyderabad.



SIMRAN KAUR,
Std III,
Lakshman Public School,
New Delhi.

VIGNESHA PRIYA,
Std VI,
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School,
Mumbai.

PRATIKSHA BHAT,
Std IV,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Hebbal, Bengaluru.

ARPIT PUSHP,
Std VIII,
Sant Kabir School,
Ahmedabad.

A.K. SHREERAMAN,
Age 11 years,
D.A.V. Mat.H.S.School,
Chennai.

ANUSHA S.JAIN,
Std II,
GGPS, Ratnagiri.

COLOUR BURST

DIPSHIKA KAR,
Std VI,
Vivekananda
Kendra Vidyalaya,
Itanagar.

Dear Grandma,

My opinion is different from my friends on most topics. I feel depressed about this. Please help.

— Mihika Bala, Korba

Dear Mihika,

Difference of opinion among friends on various subjects is not wrong. It is to be welcomed! Any person with a capacity to think, forms an opinion of his own. It may or may not coincide with that of others. But it's most important to have an open mind. If, after a discussion you feel like changing your opinion, don't hesitate to do so. Clarity is born out of unbiased discussion and truth emerges out of clarity.

●●●

Though my pronunciation is good, I am unable to excel in debating. Please give me some tips.

— Smruti Sudha Behera, Rourkela

Dear Smruti,

Your pronunciation may be good but your diction may not be as good. You have to practise to speak forcefully during debates without appearing to be acting the part. It should come naturally. Also, study the subject of debate thoroughly and deliberate on the points which are favorable to the stand you are taking. Witty remarks during the debate will add strength to your arguments provided they are spontaneous and not preplanned.

I Can't

●●●

I'm interested in reading Shakespeare. But I can't understand his literary style. What am I to do?

— Aswin Vayiravan, Madurai

Dear Aswin,

Hasn't anyone told you about Charles and Mary Lamb? The authors have retold Shakespeare's literary works in simple language for children like you. As a matter of fact, these retold stories

themselves have gained the status of good literature! If you can't get a copy in your local library, write to Higginbothams, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002. I do hope that they will help you to purchase a copy of the book.

●●●

I eat my food very slowly and my parents tell me that's why I'm so thin! Does eating slowly affect one's health?

— T.Sindu, Chennai

Dear Sindu,

I beg to differ with your parents. Eating slowly has nothing to do with your being thin. As a matter of fact one should avoid gobbling up food. At the same time you should not watch TV or day dream while eating. This will result in indigestion and will also unnecessarily prolong the time spent at the dining table. What is important is that you chew the food well and enjoy its taste. As long as you are growing taller in an average manner you don't have to worry about being thin. But if you are underweight you will have to consult your family doctor.

●●●

I am interested in writing for Gokulam. This is the first time I'm participating. Please help me to improve.

— Merlin Ranjiba, Madurai

Dear Merlin,

Here you are! See, your contribution has already been accepted by GOKULAM, and your question is being answered by Grandmaworm! Let this be the beginning. Start writing articles, stories, experiences and so on... Don't worry if all of your contributions are not accepted by GOKULAM. Keep trying. It's good mental exercise anyway.

Love, **Grandmaworm**

Understand SHAKESPEARE!

Teacher: Arya, can you give me a sentence starting with 'I'?

Arya: I is ....

Teacher: No Arya, after 'I' you must use 'am'

Arya: I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.

Raju: I've lost my dog.

Hari: Why not advertise in the papers?

Raju: Don't be daft. He can't read.

– D. Nirmala, Std VIII, S.M.S, Gingee

EXPENSIVE Ink!

Teacher: 'Jay what are the people of Turkey known as?

Jay: I don't know ma'm.

Teacher: They are known as 'Turks'. What are the people of Germany called?

Jay: 'Germs', mam'?

– Oindrila Poddar, Std VI, St.John's Diocesan Girls' HSS, Kolkata

Son: Father, is ink expensive?

Father: No son, Why do you ask?

Son: I spilt some on the carpet this morning and mother scolded me.

– L.K.Vignesh, Age 11, Chennai

Can you spot the names of ten birds from this maze of letters. They can be found only in straight lines - horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards. This grid has been sent by Diganta Jena of Bhubaneshwar

Gogo's Grid - 8

A	S	F	N	F	A	L	C	O	N	Z	D
K	A	P	B	R	U	C	Y	P	T	A	O
D	B	R	K	N	I	F	F	U	P	G	L
W	L	T	R	V	S	A	Q	H	E	A	N
G	L	E	O	U	B	N	E	M	P	I	B
A	I	V	B	R	B	A	J	W	F	T	O
C	B	U	I	M	S	A	I	I	Y	G	O
O	N	L	N	A	A	N	K	G	N	K	O
S	R	O	N	M	G	H	J	O	S	A	K
L	O	T	H	C	H	E	R	E	O	X	C
M	H	S	A	S	K	D	P	S	T	K	U
T	O	O	T	A	K	C	O	C	W	L	C

Gogo's Grid -7

S	N	O	W	A	D	B	C	D	G
E	F	G	R	H	N	I	J	O	K
L	M	A	N	O	I	P	F	O	R
S	I	T	U	V	W	W	I	C	E
N	G	N	I	N	T	H	G	I	L
X	Y	D	Z	T	A	B	C	D	E
W	E	G	E	N	I	J	K	L	M
F	E	E	T	H	U	N	D	E	R
O	L	D	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
S	X	Y	O	D	A	N	R	O	T

Congratulations!

The Five lucky winners are:

1. ***K.S.Nityashree,***
Sri Kumaran Children's Home, Bengaluru

2. ***Rohan Singh Jain,***
St.Britto's Academy, Chennai

3. ***B. Shakthipriya,***
Kendriya Vidyalaya (IIT), Chennai

4. ***P. Drishya,*** *Adarsh Vidya Kendra, Parvathipuram.*

5. ***R.Ramakrishnan,***
Jawahar Vidhyalya, Chennai

Gogo's Grid - 8 ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class ....

School : ....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 15.03.2007

What big teeth you have..!

Remember the story of Little Red-Riding Hood and the big bad wolf? That wolf was also red. Red wolves are found mostly in North America. The coat of the red wolf is tawny-cinnamon mixed with grey and black. Red wolves are rather large. Red wolves were apparently most numerous in the once extensive river forests and swamps of the USA. On the verge of being wiped out, they were re-introduced into North Carolina.

In the past, the red wolf had been reported to eat animals up to the size of small deer, including pigs, raccoons, muskrats and rabbits. Now they mainly feed on the white - tailed deer, raccoons and rabbits.

Red wolf cubs are born in dens, which can be located in hollow tree trunks, stream banks or sand knolls. The dens are either excavated by the wolves or taken over from another animal. The red wolf is primarily nocturnal but increases its daytime activity during the winter. The red wolf is a pack- living animal with a complex social organization.

Source: Internet

Saraswat Dikhit, Std VII,
Ruchika High School,
Bhubaneshwar

Music

Man cannot live without music. Music provides him a soothing effect when he is upset, makes him happy when he is dull, entertains him when he is bored... the list is endless.

When we know that science is a double edged weapon, it is up to us to put ipods and walkmans to wise use.

— B. Mithra, Std X, AECS, Kalpakkam

Some people have a craze for music and think it is the only entertainment. I really don't think music is needed so much even when people are on the move and know that it damages the ear.

— M. Arjun, Std VII, Chettinad Vidyashram, Chennai

I certainly agree that listening to music is a far better relaxation method than many others. Melodious music is really good when on move.

— Manasa.M.K., Std IX, M.E.S.Kishora Kendra, , Bengalooru

Music can be listened to when people are bored or tired and can relax their mind and body but some people get addicted to music and expose themselves to danger. Listening to music while driving is the cause for several accidents. Listening to music using headphones must be completely avoided in order not to affect our ears.

— Shweta Kapoor, Std VII Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chennai

Yes, music is necessary as it provides relief from stress and tensions. It is a great pastime listening to it at moderate volume for short spells would be wise.

— G.Anvesh Kumar, Kendriya Vidyalaya Bhandup, Mumbai

As people get more and more busy, they find less and less time to sit down and listen to music. To such folks the walkmans and ipods are a blessing.

— W. Khusbu Agarwalla, Std IX, Kamaraj H.H.S.S, Kovilpatti

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

Wearing helmets has been made compulsory for two-wheeler riders. What are your views?

Send us your views by 14.03.2007. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com)

I accept that listening to music is a good habit. But listening to it using the headphones is dangerous, because it may lead to deafness. Music may relieve stress and may entertain us while we are travelling but it may also lead to accidents especially if you are the one driving the vehicle.

— J. Madhavraj, Std VII,
S.B.I.O.A Matric,
Trichy

or Your Life?

The wind blew so hard it seemed as if it would blow the trees over.

"We cannot go for our ride this morning," said Mummy; "it's too windy".

"Silly old wind", cried Kavitha.

All the week she had been looking forward to this ride on her new bicycle. Now the high wind had spoiled it all. It was too bad.

"Suppose you help me to tidy up," suggested Mummy. "Get the waste paper basket from Daddy's study and we'll have a bonfire in the garden."

Kavitha ran into the study. Daddy's waste paper basket was quite full. A number of old letters and news papers were lying about the room too. She picked them up, put them on top of the basket, and set off down the garden.

Suddenly the wind gave a great puff.

At once all the top papers in the basket were blown about all over the garden. Kavitha had a fine chase collecting them, and by the time she had finished, Mummy came out and they made a bonfire.

Just as they had finished Daddy came down the garden.

"Have you seen a pound note lying about in my study? he asked. "I put it on my table this morning, and now it has gone.

"Do you think the wind blew it on to the floor?" asked Mummy.

"Oh, dear!" cried Kavitha. "I picked lots of papers off the floor. I thought they were supposed to be thrown away. And now they're all burnt!"

She looked ready to cry.

"I'm quite sure we didn't put a pound note in the fire", declared Mummy.

Although they hunted high and low in the study, there was no sign of the pound note.

Then Kavitha had an idea. Hadn't the wind blown some of the papers all over the garden? There was just a chance that she had not picked up some of them.

She darted out — and almost the first thing she saw was the note, caught under the garden seat.

"Hurrah!" she cried, running indoors with it. "Look, is n't the wind kind? It blew it out of the basket to save it from being burnt."

You may imagine how pleased Mummy and Daddy were.

The LOST POUND

As for the wind, it was surprised at being called kind that it went off and blew some where else instead!

So Kavitha and her mother had their bicycle ride after all.

— P. Eniyan,
Std X, Jaigopal Garodia National Higher sec. School, Chennai

E. Mounika celebrates her 12th Birthday on 31st March.

"We wish you many more happy returns of the day."

— Sai Lakshmi Prasanna and Santhosh.

P. Eniyan celebrates his birthday on 12th March.

"We wish you a very happy birthday and a prosperous future."

— Family and Friends

MANY HAPPY RETURNS...

Bragadeesh celebrates his 7th birthday on 6th March at Bloomington USA.

"Many happy returns of the day."

With love from

— Swathi, Siddarth and Era K Yazhini.

Will The BUDGET Bring Down Prices?

It is a pity that forces sent to enforce the rule of law and maintain peace, indulge in horrible acts out of utter selfishness. Some top ranking army personnel is Kashmir, killed innocent individuals and buried them deep to avoid identification. They then claimed that they had killed terrorists in encounters! These cowards were rewarded and promoted for 'killing terrorists!' However their dastardly acts came to light recently and the army officers were arrested for trial by military courts.

• • •

A ticket examiner found that the railway minister's in-laws were travelling by first class AC without tickets! They were made to pay up — including the fine, ofcourse! Lalu Prasad Yadav praised the T.T.E for his courage and said, "Let the incident be a warning to all those travelling without tickets!

• • •

Prices of all commodities are sky rocketing. All politicians are expressing their concern but no worthwhile suggestion is forthcoming. The prices of petrol and diesel have been reduced. But will this result in overall price reduction? The Finance Minister is working on the budget to be presented on 28th February. Does he have a solution?

• Sky rocketing prices

• • •

Tatas have acquired Corus and Birlas have bought over Novelis! While foreign direct investments are being wooed in India, our own industrial tycoons are spreading their wings and taking over foreign establishments! Let us hope that our economy will be strengthened by all these daring ventures!

• Warning to the ticketless

The WORLD

You can be present in six different continents without leaving the comfort of your home! This is the age of the Internet, an age of super speed.

It all began in the early 60s, when Professor Licklinder had the brainwave of interconnecting all the computers in the world. Thus the world over, computers could be talking and exchanging information. This interconnecting of computers is called the Internet.

To get on to the internet we need the hardware (computer and modem) and the software (programs). These help us 'surf' the net.

A computer can accept data, perform operations at high speed and display the results. But it cannot communicate with other computers without some help.

A Modulator/demodulator, called *Modem* for short, is like a post office, which delivers and receives packets, both big and small. A modem can do this job with a telephone connection. When it receives the signal through the phone connection, the modem converts the signals so that the receiving computer understands it correctly.

To open a web page on our computer, we use web browsers like Internet Explorer/ Netscape/ Mozilla.

The browser is the software that communicates with web servers through the *Hyper Text Transfer Protocol* — the language spoken between them. *Hyper Text Makeup Language* is the 'written' language that translates pages and images into a nice on-screen display.

Both these were invented by Tim Berners-Lee a nuclear physicist, who was looking for a way to share information in a quick and economical manner across the world. He joined Robert Cailliau in 1990 and invented the World Wide Web— the *www* that we find today in an internet address.

Every page on the www has an address. For example if we want to reach the homepage of Gokulam

magazine the computer carries out many instructions at high speed as follows.

We open the web browser and type the website address: http://www. kalkiweekly.com/subscribe/gokulam english.asp

The modem converts the information into digital format. This is transmitted to the web server. The computer might be physically located anywhere in the world. The modem locates this address on the server based on the web address and brings the page to us. The HTTP allows the modem to 'ask' for the page. The information on the page, written with HTML codes shows up on our computer screen through the modem. The entire process happens in the blink of an eye !

The HTTP protocol allows us to carry on voice chat, chat with web camera, transmit pictures and watch events on the website. The HTTP allows us to stay connected to many web servers simultaneously.

at Your FINGER TIPS!

With more than several billion computers, will our computer get lost in the web space? Fear not. Just like the web page has an address, our computers also have an address-Internet Protocol address (IP address). This is a series of numbers that are unique to each computer. We could be talking with a 'neighbour' half way around the globe, yet our computers know exactly which machine they are talking with! After all, with the internet, the whole world becomes a neighbour!

✉ I like Gokulam very much because it has a variety of things to read read. I wish it were a weekly magazine.

— Remya Joseph,
Std VII,
Ryan International School,
Mumbai .

✉ Gokulam is my favourite magazine and I read it without missing an issue. I like Gogo's Grid, Grandmaworm, Let's Cook up, Tinku, Stories and Poems. This magazine gives me good information. My sisters and I are lucky to have such an excellent magazine.

— K.Adithi, Std V,
D.A.V Girls Senior
Secondary School
Chennai

East or West... Gokulam is

✉ I have been a regular reader of Gokulam for the past one year. I came to know about this magazine from our school and have become a subscriber. I like Viewpoint, Experience, Grandmaworm, Hello Doctor, Pottering Around.

— Vibha Vishwanath,
Gurukrupa, Bengaluru

✉ I came to know about Gokulam when my friend read started reading it. I too read with him. It's wonderful. Please publish some tips for children to enable them to score high marks. I also want to know about the alue of prayer and good habits.

— B. Ganesh, Std IX,
B.H.E.L.Matric HSS,
Trichy - 14

✉ Gokulam is the magazine read by all the members of my family. It helps me improve my language. I like riddles puzzles, Pot Pourri and the jokes. I love 'Gokulam' very much.

— P. Sadhana,
Std VIII,
S.S.V.Chennai

✉ I love Gokulam very much and I am a regular reader. I eagerly wait for it every month. I love Grandmaworm, Viewpoint, Hello Doctor and the most marvellous Pot Pourri. I request you to give more and more information about Harry Potter books. I have gained sound knowledge by reading Gokulam.

"East or West Gokulam is the best."

— T.C. Sruthi,
Std IX,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Pondicherry

the Best!

✉ Gokulam is an excellent magazine. We like Viewpoint, Gogo's Grid and Potter News.

— S. Aditi, Std VIII,
Vijaya High School, Bengaluru

VARIYAR

Can you believe that an eight year old wrote divine verses?... The young boy could do it with ease! No, he was not a saint of the 13th or 14th century but very much a child of the twentieth century.

Born in the year 1906, Kripananda Variyar had memorized over ten thousand verses of Tamil hymns by the time he turned 13. Soon he rose to be a captivating upanyasaka — one who extols the virtues of God through stories and explains the meaning of religious scriptures lucidly.

The most surprising thing is that Kripananda Variyar, never went to school! He was the fourth of eleven children born at Kangeyanallur — a small village in Tamil Nadu. His father Mallaya Bagavathar taught him literature, grammar and music at home. He also learned to play the veena.

Mallaya Bagavathar was well-known for his discourses on epics and dharma sastra (ethics). His wife Kanakavalli was a pious woman. Kripananda Variyar's parents were a great influence on his life.

Though Kripananda Variyar

discoursed on many subjects, he surpassed himself each time while speaking about Lord Murugan (also called Karthikeya). This gave him the prefix 'Thirumuruga' and he came to be addressed as *Thirumuruga Kripananda Variyar*.

Mallaya Bagavathar had been a pioneer in organising Thiruppugazh sabhas all over Tamil Nadu.Thiruppugazh songs are Tamil verses composed by the 15th century saint Arunagirinathar. The sabhas propogated these verses which were in praise of Lord Muruga. Kripananda Variyar delved deep into these verses and explained their meaning in lucid and simple language. This drew large crowds to his discourses.He peppered his speeches with humorous puns, thrilling anecdotes and unexpected punches keeping the audience spellbound. Even the man on the street could understand what Variyar spoke. All who listened to him felt elevated and close to the Almighty.

Variyar had mastered Sanskrit and philosophy as well, at the age of 17 when he started, giving discourses. He was blessed by a saint called Pamban Swamigal and lead a pious and simple life. He married Amirthalakshmi at the age of 19!

A monthly magazine called Thiruppugazh Amudam was started by Variyar in 1936 and published for 37 years. Later, Variyar wrote for other magazines. He has even written a series of stcries for children in the Tamil edition of Gokulam.

Kripananda Variyar had a stint in movies too — mostly donning guest roles. He passed away in November 1993.

He was a star among bhakthas and upanyasakas. Even today, at the end of his centenary celebrations, the audio cassettes and CD recordings of his discourses sell like hot cakes!

— Kaushalya Narendran, Std IX, Vasanth Vihar High School & Junior College, Mumbai

SWAMIGAL

TINKU

Story, Pictures: Pillai

S.Amritha, Std IX,
Rosary Matriculation School,
Chennai.

Registered with the Registrar of Newspaper of India under No. 49668/88 * Registered No. TN/CC(S)DN/107/06-08 * Licensed to post without prepayment under PMG's Licence No. WPP TN/CC(S)DN/44/06-08 * Registered as a Newspaper in Sri Lanka

LEARN ENGLISH AT ALOHA FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE...

ALOHA English Smart
For ages 6 - 14

* Develop Fluency & Confidence in Oral Communication.
* Develop Ability in Written Communication.
* Develop Comfort in Contextual Vocabulary.
* Develop Creativity in Writting.
* Application of English Language Skills to Develop the intelligences.

Become our Franchisee & join the successful ALOHA family

A/c Class Rooms
Small Batches
Experienced Faculties

ALOHA INDIA

(A division of K K Academy (P) Ltd)
An ISO 9001 : 2000 Company
'Deccan Heritage', New No. 521, II Floor, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035, Tamil Nadu, India. **Ph : 24361144/9940299932**
Email : info@alohaindia.com Web : www.alohaindia.com